FLASH GORDON

Daily Series I, Story 008

"Royal Hunt"

November 27, 1942 to April 21, 1943

by Austin Briggs

QUEEN TIGRA IS TOO VAIN TO BELIEVE THAT FLASH COULD PREFER DALE TO HER, BUT, WOMAN-LIKE, SHE PLANS TO MAKE SURE...

MY BRAVE FLASH, I KNOW HOW YOU'LL ENJOY THE ROYAL SPORT OF FORESTIA, HUNTING TREE-LIONS. AND I'VE DECIDED TO LET YOUR LITTLE FRIEND, DALE, COME ALONG...

FLASH TRIES TO WARN DALE NOT TO COME-- BUT TIGRA'S SWIFT, IMPERIOUS ORDERS SWEEP THEM IRRESISTIBLY TOWARD THE PERILS SHE PLANS. THE HUNTSMEN BRING OUT THEIR LOPARS, FIERCE, BLACK LEOPARD-HORSES.
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ONLY A WOMAN LIKE TIGRA COULD THINK UP SUCH A SCHEME--FORCING HER RIVAL, DALE, TO GO ON THE TREE-LION HUNT.

FLASH SWIFTLY MASTERS HIS FIERY, LEOPARD HORSE, AND TRIES TO QUIET DALE'S STEED--BUT TIGRA HAS DELIBERATELY GIVEN HER THE MOST VICIOUS LOPAR IN THE HUNTING STABLE. TIGRA PLANS EITHER TO SHOW HER UP OR KILL HER!
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11-28

FROM HIS CELL WINDOW CUGAR WATCHES IN GRIM ADMIRATION, AS THE HUNT STARTS.
TIGRA'S A DEVIL TO DO THAT TO DALE! BUT NOW'S MY CHANCE TO GET AWAY-- AND TO GET MY REVENGE ON FLASH!
NEXT WEEK: TREEING A LION

NO HOLDS ARE BARRED WHEN TIGRA FACES A RIVAL IN LOVE. SHE TAKES FLASH AND DALE ON A TREE-LION HUNT, MOUNTED ON SAVAGE LEOPARD-HORSES.
SOME PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO RIDE LOPARS. DO YOU WANT TO QUIT, DALE?
NO! I'LL MANAGE THIS BEAST SOMEHOW.
11-30
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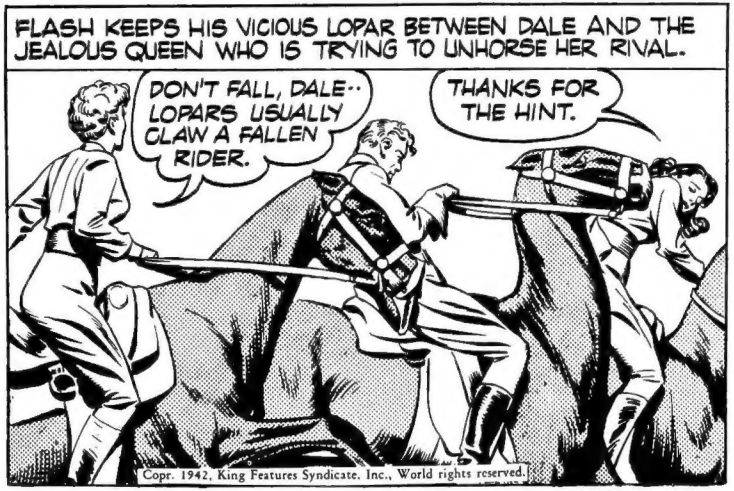
OH, SORRY, TIGRA--DID I SCARE YOU?
DON'T BE FOOLISH. I CAN RIDE ANY LOPAR THAT EVER LIVED!
FLASH SEES THAT TIGRA IS DELIBERATELY EXCITING DALE'S MOUNT··· SO HE "ACCIDENTALLY" CROWDS TIGRA'S LOPAR TO KEEP HER BUSY····


FLASH KEEPS HIS VICIOUS LOPAR BETWEEN DALE AND THE JEALOUS QUEEN WHO IS TRYING TO UNHORSE HER RIVAL.
DON'T FALL, DALE·· LOPARS USUALLY CLAW A FALLEN RIDER.
THANKS FOR THE HINT.
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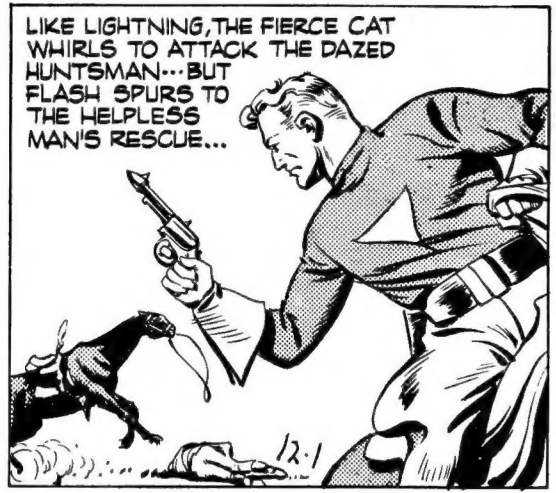
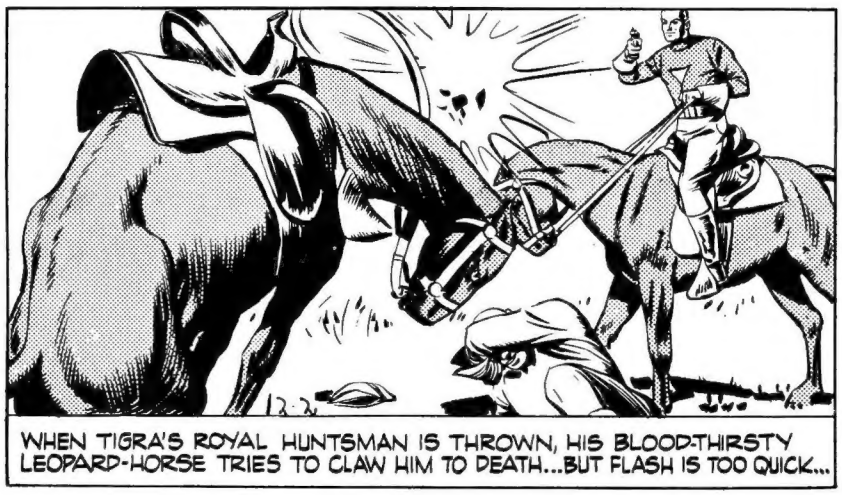
THE LEADING LOPAR SUDDENLY SCENTS A TREE-LION'S TRAIL. ITS SUDDEN LEAP UNSEATS THE ROYAL HUNTSMAN, WHO ACCOMPANIES THE PARTY·····


LIKE LIGHTNING, THE FIERCE CAT WHIRLS TO ATTACK THE DAZED HUNTSMAN···BUT FLASH SPURS TO THE HELPLESS MAN'S RESCUE...
12-1



WHEN TIGRA'S ROYAL HUNTSMAN IS THROWN, HIS BLOOD-THIRSTY LEOPARD-HORSE TRIES TO CLAW HIM TO DEATH...BUT FLASH IS TOO QUICK...

ENOUGH OF THIS! GO HOME, FOOL, AND LEARN TO RIDE!
THAT'LL DO, TIGRA. YOU CAN'T EXPECT EVERYONE TO RIDE YOUR LOPARS, AS WELL AS YOU DO!
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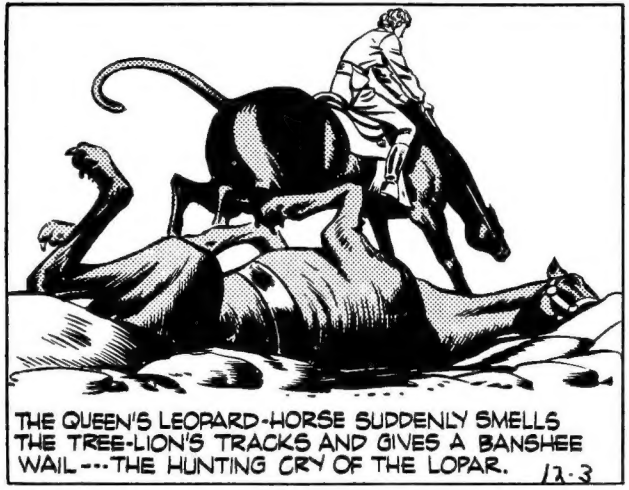
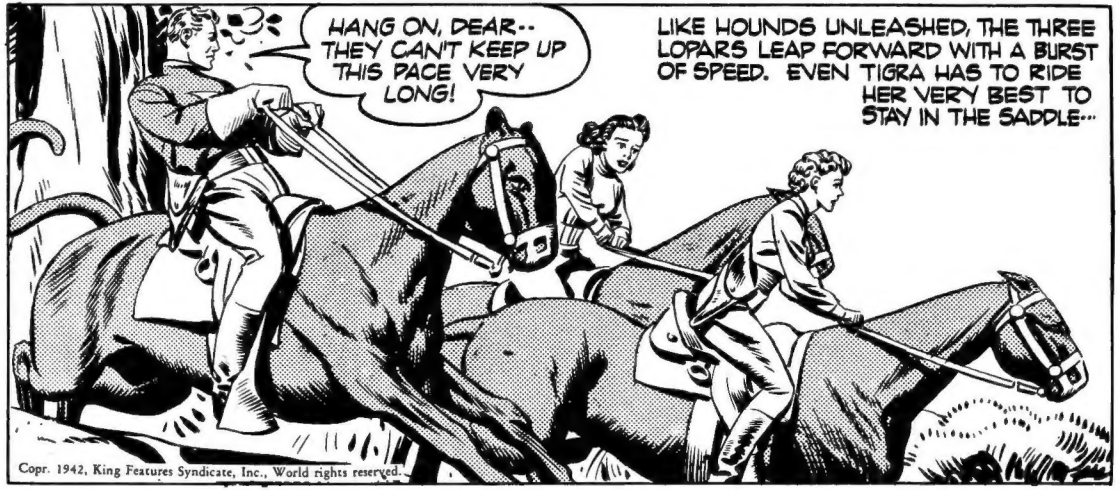


THE QUEEN'S LEOPARD-HORSE SUDDENLY SMELLS THE TREE-LION'S TRACKS AND GIVES A BANSHEE WAIL---THE HUNTING CRY OF THE LOPAR. 12-3


HANG ON, DEAR-- THEY CAN'T KEEP UP THIS PACE VERY LONG!
LIKE HOUNDS UNLEASHED, THE THREE LOPARS LEAP FORWARD WITH A BURST OF SPEED. EVEN TIGRA HAS TO RIDE HER VERY BEST TO STAY IN THE SADDLE...
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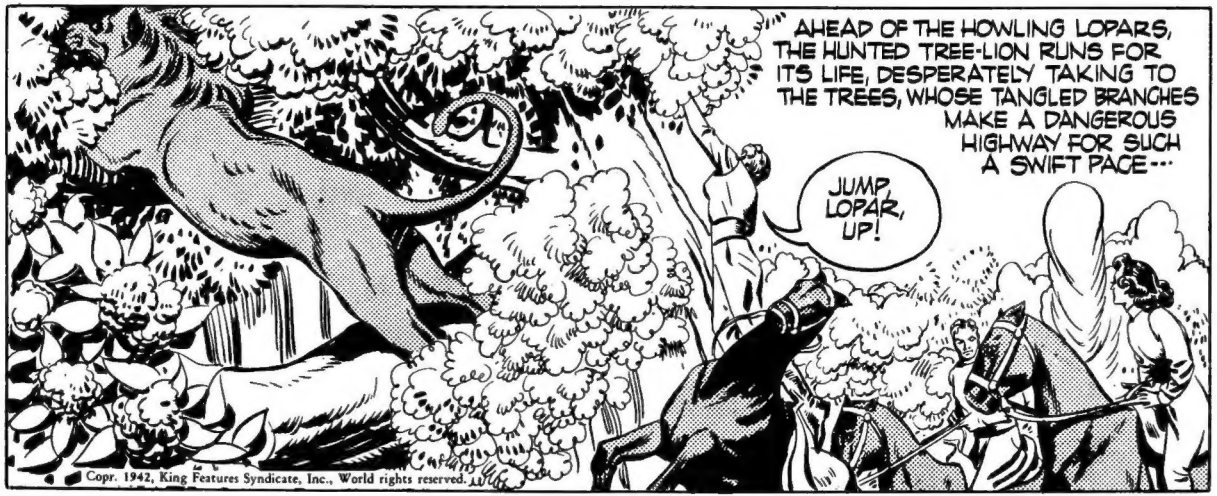
AHEAD OF THE HOWLING LOPARS, THE HUNTED TREE-LION RUNS FOR ITS LIFE, DESPERATELY TAKING TO THE TREES, WHOSE TANGLED BRANCHES MAKE A DANGEROUS HIGHWAY FOR SUCH A SWIFT PACE···
JUMP, LOPAR, UP!
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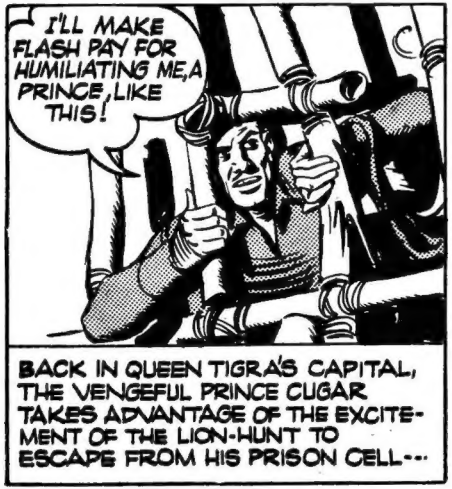
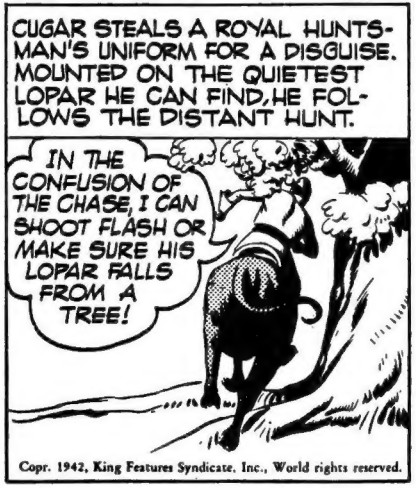
FLASH HOLDS HIS RACING LOPAR BACK, ALONGSIDE DALE.
WANT TO TURN BACK, DALE?
THIS IS TERRIBLY DANGEROUS SPORT!
NO! I WON'T LET TIGRA MAKE ME QUIT!
12-4


I'LL MAKE FLASH PAY FOR HUMILIATING ME, A PRINCE, LIKE THIS!
BACK IN QUEEN TIGRA'S CAPITAL, THE VENGEFUL PRINCE CUGAR TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE EXCITEMENT OF THE LION-HUNT TO ESCAPE FROM HIS PRISON CELL···


CUGAR STEALS A ROYAL HUNTSMAN'S UNIFORM FOR A DISGUISE. MOUNTED ON THE QUIETEST LOPAR HE CAN FIND, HE FOLLOWS THE DISTANT HUNT.
IN THE CONFUSION OF THE CHASE, I CAN SHOOT FLASH OR MAKE SURE HIS LOPAR FALLS FROM A TREE!
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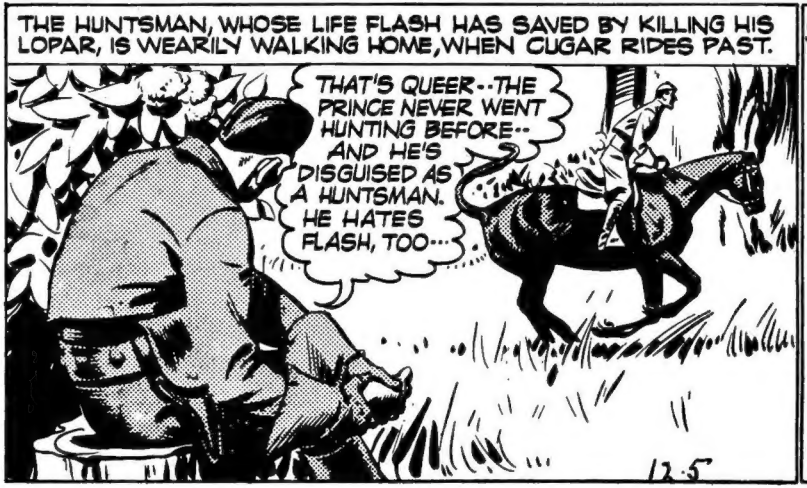
THE HUNTSMAN, WHOSE LIFE FLASH HAS SAVED BY KILLING HIS LOPAR, IS WEARILY WALKING HOME, WHEN CUGAR RIDES PAST.
THAT'S QUEER··THE PRINCE NEVER WENT HUNTING BEFORE·· AND HE'S DISGUISED AS A HUNTSMAN. HE HATES FLASH, TOO···
12-5
NEXT WEEK
DANGER IN THE TREE TOPS

HOT ON THE TRAIL OF A TREE-LION, TIGRA SHOWS HER ROYAL BLOOD BY SINGING JOYFULLY, AS SHE SPURS HER FIERCE LOPAR THROUGH THE TREE-TOPS.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DARLING?
YES, DEAR. ISN'T THIS FUN?
DALE IS SECRETLY TERRIFIED BY THE GREAT AND UNFAMILIAR PERILS OF THE ROYAL HUNT-- BUT SHE'D RATHER DIE THAN SHOW HER FEAR BEFORE TIGRA AND FLASH...
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EVEN IN THE EXCITEMENT OF THE CHASE, FLASH HAS TO COMPARE THOSE TWO BEAUTIFUL, BUT UTTERLY DIFFERENT, WOMEN---ONE BOLD, FIERCE, CRUEL, FIERY-- THE OTHER TENDER, SWEET, YET WITH A COURAGE GREATER THAN HER FEMININE FEARS---
12-7

BY TAO'S EARS, THAT DALE GIRL IS STILL KEEPING UP!

WHEN DALE FOLLOWS OUT ONTO A NARROW BRANCH, TIGRA MAKES HER LOPAR JUMP OUT AND DOWN--HOPING TO SHAKE DALE OFF INTO SPACE.
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12-8

DALE'S LOPAR SAVES ITSELF BY CLAWING OFF THE BRANCH. FLASH SHREWDLY GUESSES WHAT TIGRA WAS TRYING TO DO--SO HE DIVES ONTO HER BRANCH LIKE A SPRINGBOARD, TO TEACH A NEEDED LESSON IN MANNERS.

WHEN TIGRA TRIES TO MAKE DALE FALL, FLASH TURNS THE TABLES ON THE RECKLESS QUEEN AND MAKES HER TAKE A WILD JUMP TO A NEAR-BY TREE. FLASH FOLLOWS, LAUGHING, KNOWING TIGRA WILL LAND ON HER FEET LIKE A CAT--AND HOPING SHE'S LEARNED HER LESSON.
YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE, YOU DEVIL!
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CONFESS, NOW, YOU RASCAL. YOU REALLY MEANT TO THROW ME OFF THAT BRANCH.
I KNEW YOU COULD TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, BUT I'M NOT SO SURE YOU WERE JUST PLAYING A GAME WHEN YOU TRIED TO MAKE DALE FALL. LET'S NOT HAVE ANY MORE TRICKS, TIGRA.
12-9

SUDDENLY THE THREE HUNTING LOPARS GIVE THEIR EERIE CRY--THE SCENT OF THEIR PREY IS HOT AND FRESH--THE HUNTED TREE-LION IS DRIVEN OUT INTO THE OPEN!

THE HARRIED KING OF THE FOREST LEAPS INTO HIS FINAL REFUGE, A MIGHTY TREE STANDING IN THE MIDST OF THE CLEARING.
12-10

WE'VE GOT HIM TREED. I'LL SHOOT TILL I BRING HIM DOWN!
NO, TIGRA, REMEMBER YOUR HUNTING CODE. YOU AND I WILL CLIMB AFTER HIM!
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NOBODY IN MY KINGDOM HAS EVER DARED CLIMB A TREE AFTER A LION.
WELL, I'M GOING TO. YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO SHOW US UP.. NOW YOU'RE FACING THE TEST! COMING?
FLASH AND TIGRA TIE UP THEIR BLOOD-THIRSTY LOPARS, WHILE DALE MOUNTS GUARD TO SEE THAT THE TREED LION DOESN'T MAKE A BREAK FOR FREEDOM.
12-11

I'LL GO ANY-WHERE A MAN DARES GO.
I'LL SAY THIS FOR YOU, TIGRA. YOU MAY BE FIERCE AND UNFAIR--- BUT YOU'RE AS BRAVE AS THEY COME!
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WE HAVE A LONG CLIMB YET -- THE LION WILL GO AS HIGH AS HE DARES, BEFORE HE TURNS AT BAY.

IT'S A TALL TREE--- AND LIONS ALWAYS WAIT AT THE TOP.
TIGRA AND FLASH ARE APPROACHING THE CLIMAX OF A ROYAL LION-HUNT--CLIMBING AFTER THE TREED LION, THE TWO HUNTERS ARE RACING TO BE FIRST AT THE KILL.

THIS IS GREAT SPORT! YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN WHO DESERVES TO SHARE MY HUNTS-- AND PERHAPS MY THRONE!
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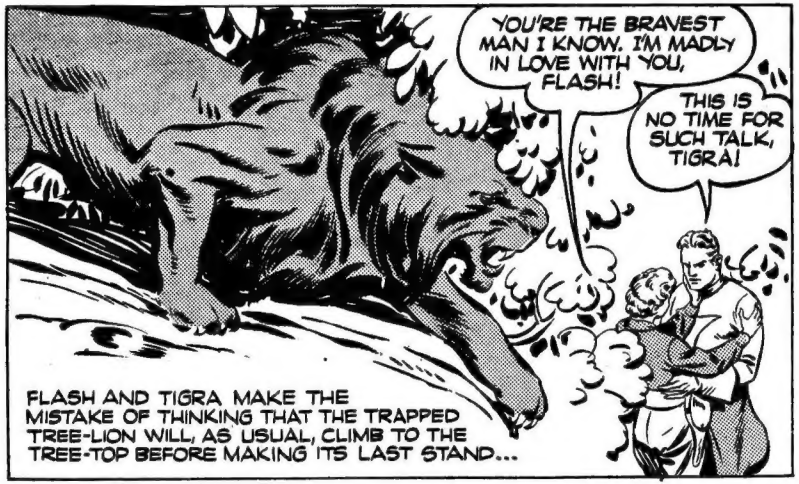
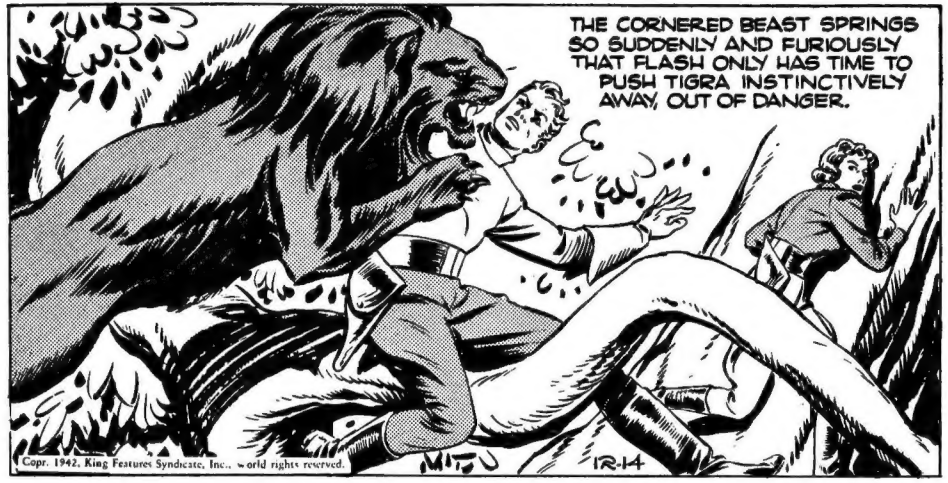
YOU'RE A STRANGE GIRL, TIGRA.
TIGRA IS SWEPT AWAY BY HER ADMIRATION FOR FLASH. SHE FORGETS THAT MEN, AND LIONS, ARE NOT ALL ALIKE--THAT SHE CAN'T COUNT ON THEIR DOING JUST WHAT SHE EXPECTS....
12-12
NEXT WEEK
FIGHT TO THE DEATH!


YOU'RE THE BRAVEST MAN I KNOW. I'M MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU, FLASH!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR SUCH TALK, TIGRA!
FLASH AND TIGRA MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING THAT THE TRAPPED TREE-LION WILL, AS USUAL, CLIMB TO THE TREE-TOP BEFORE MAKING ITS LAST STAND...


THE CORNERED BEAST SPRINGS SO SUDDENLY AND FURIOUSLY THAT FLASH ONLY HAS TIME TO PUSH TIGRA INSTINCTIVELY AWAY, OUT OF DANGER.
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12-14

THE CORNERED TREE-LION SPRINGS FROM AMBUSH AND CATCHES FLASH AT A FEARFUL DISADVANTAGE...
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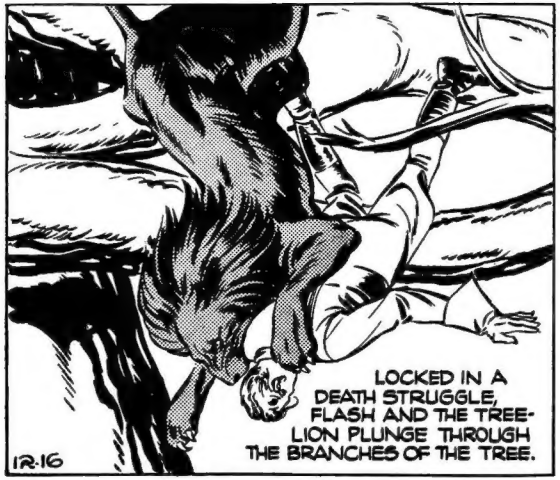
DESPITE HIS BEST EFFORTS, FLASH CAN'T GET AT HIS RAY-GUN. IN ANOTHER SECOND THE LION WILL CLAW HIM TO DEATH...

IN A LAST DESPERATE GAMBLE, FLASH TWISTS OFF THE BRANCH. HE HOPES THE LION WILL LET GO ITS GRIP, IN ITS FEAR OF FALLING...
12-15


LOCKED IN A DEATH STRUGGLE, FLASH AND THE TREE-LION PLUNGE THROUGH THE BRANCHES OF THE TREE.
12-16

CAT-LIKE, THE LION TRIES TO TURN IN MID-AIR TO LAND ON ITS FEET...

THE SURE-FOOTED LION MANAGES TO BREAK ITS FALL AND LAND ON THE TREE'S LOWEST AND LARGEST BRANCH··· AND NOW FLASH IS ON TOP!
I'VE GOT YOU NOW!
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FLASH AND THE TREE-LION FIGHT FOR THEIR LIVES···FLASH'S STRENGTH AND WRESTLING SCIENCE ARE PITTED AGAINST THE BEAST'S CLAWS AND FANGS.
12-17
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HEEDLESS OF DANGER, TIGRA SPRINGS FROM BRANCH TO BRANCH, HOPING TO REACH FLASH IN TIME TO SAVE HIM.

TRY TO HOLD STILL SO I CAN GET A SHOT AT HIM, FLASH!
DON'T SHOOT, TIGRA·· I CAN HANDLE HIM BARE-HANDED!

IT'S INCREDIBLE! NO MAN EVER KILLED A LION LIKE THAT BEFORE!
TO QUEEN TIGRA'S AMAZEMENT, FLASH CONQUERS THE TREE-LION BARE-HANDED, BREAKING ITS BACK AS IT MAKES ONE LAST EFFORT TO CLAW HIM.
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12-18

THIS ROYAL LION-HUNT WILL MAKE HISTORY IN FORESTIA!
IT HAS BEEN FUN, TIGRA. THE LION-SKIN SHOULD MAKE A HANDSOME TROPHY.

OH, FLASH, THANK HEAVENS YOU CAME BACK ALIVE! I WAS SO WORRIED....
WORRIED? YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM KILL THE LION! IT WAS GLORIOUS SPORT!
FLASH RETURNS VICTORIOUS WITH THE CONQUERED TREE-LION AS A TROPHY.
12-19
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CATCHING THE SCENT OF THE TREE-LION, DALE'S LOPAR GOES BERSERK AND LEAPS TO TEAR ITS ENEMY TO PIECES.
HOLD THAT LOPAR BACK, YOU FOOL!
NEXT WEEK STALKING THE HUNTERS!

HEY!
LOOK OUT, FLASH, THE LOPAR WILL CLAW YOU!
DALE'S LEOPARD-HORSE GOES CRAZY, AS IT SMELLS ITS PREY, THE TREE-LION FLASH HAS KILLED...

YOU'RE MARVELOUS, FLASH! YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING!
12-21
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QUIET! YOU'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO THE LION, MY FRIEND, BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO CARRY IT BACK TO FORESTIA FOR ME!
FLASH CONTROLS THE VICIOUS LOPAR WHICH HAS GONE MAD AT THE SIGHT OF THE DEAD TREE-LION.

THAT'S DALE'S LOPAR -- SHE'LL HAVE TO RIDE IT HOME.
OH, NO, TIGRA. THIS LEOPARD-HORSE IS SO FIERY THAT I'M GOING TO RIDE IT, MYSELF. DALE WILL BE BETTER OFF ON MY LOPAR.
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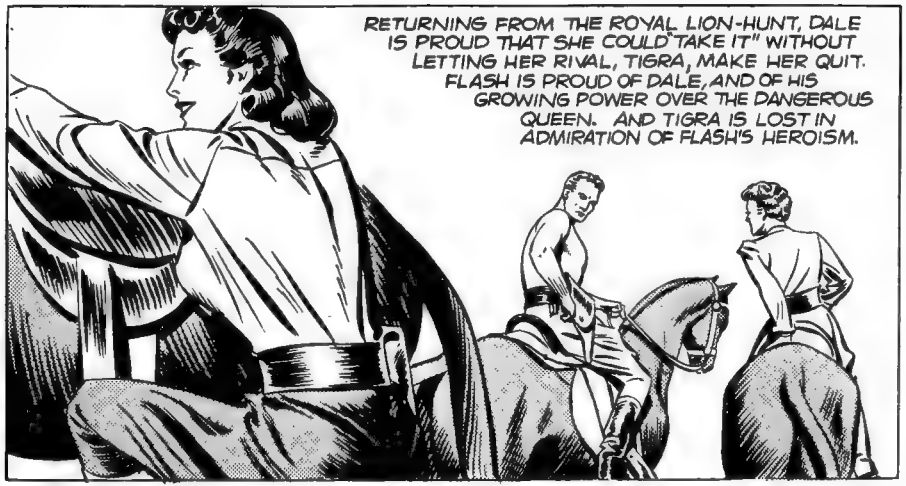
WELL... IF YOU WANT IT THAT WAY...
12 22
THE HAUGHTY, TEMPESTUOUS QUEEN IS SO AWED BY FLASH'S PROWESS THAT SHE FINDS HERSELF TAKING ORDERS--AND LIKING IT.


RETURNING FROM THE ROYAL LION-HUNT, DALE IS PROUD THAT SHE COULD TAKE IT" WITHOUT LETTING HER RIVAL, TIGRA, MAKE HER QUIT. FLASH IS PROUD OF DALE, AND OF HIS GROWING POWER OVER THE DANGEROUS QUEEN. AND TIGRA IS LOST IN ADMIRATION OF FLASH'S HEROISM.

I HEAR THEIR LOPARS HOWLING. THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!.. I MUST AMBUSH THEM!
BUT A SINISTER FIGURE IS HEADING TOWARD THEM! PRINCE CUGAR HAS MURDER IN HIS HEART!
12-23
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HA! THEY'RE SURE TO USE THE TREE-BRIDGE. THAT'S A PERFECT PLACE FOR AN "ACCIDENT"
CUGAR, PLANNING REVENGE ON FLASH, WAITS TO AMBUSH THE RETURNING LION-HUNTERS.

I'LL CUT THE BRANCH ALMOST IN TWO. WHEN THEIR LOPARS JUMP ONTO IT, THEY'LL FALL TO THEIR DEATH!
12-24

CUGAR'S EVIL TRAP IS SET BARELY IN TIME. HE HAS JUST BURNED THE BRIDGING BRANCH HALF-THROUGH WHEN HE SEES FLASH, DALE AND TIGRA CLIMBING THE OPPOSITE TREE-TRUNK...
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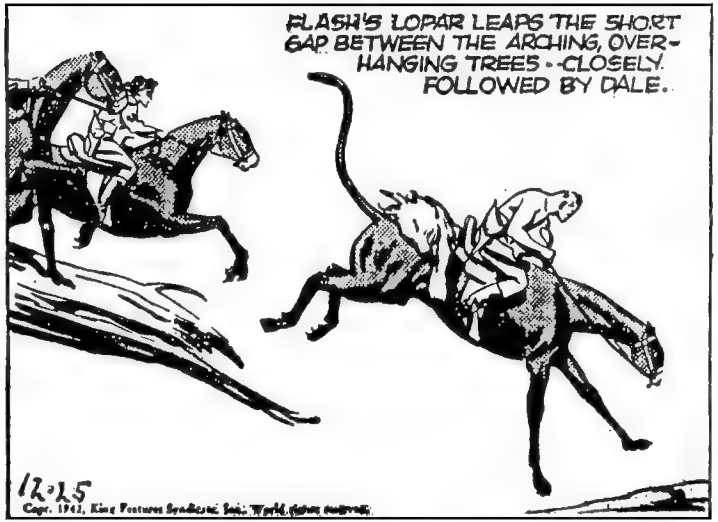
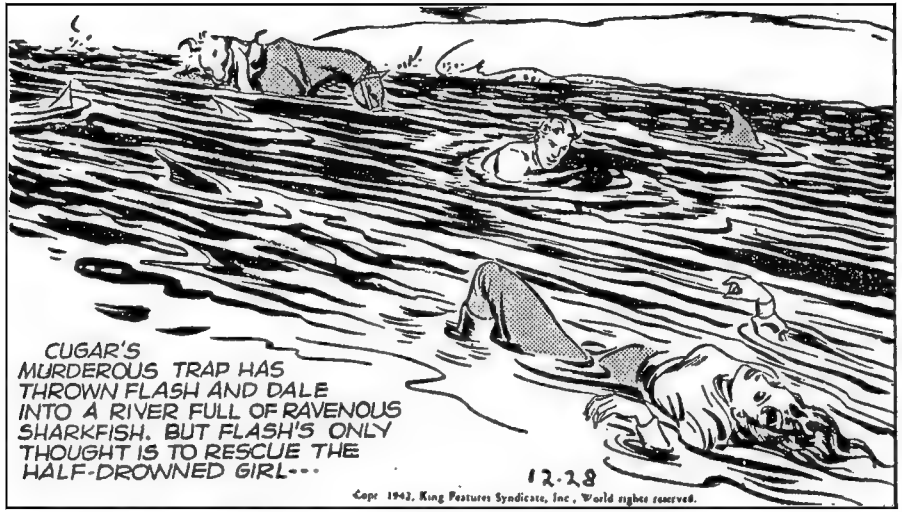
FLASH LEADS THE WAY ACROSS THE TREE-BRIDGE HIGH ABOVE THE RUSHING STREAM. HIS LOPAR SENSES THE PRESENCE OF THE LURKING ASSASSIN, CUGAR IN THE OPPOSITE TREE, BUT FLASH FORCES HIS STEED ONWARD...


FLASH'S LOPAR LEAPS THE SHORT GAP BETWEEN THE ARCHING, OVER-HANGING TREES--CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY DALE.
12-15

HELP!
THE WEIGHT OF THE SPRINGING LOPARS BREAKS THE BRANCH WHICH CUGAR HAS RAY-BLASTED!

TIGRA WATCHES IN HORROR--AND THE HIDDEN ASSASSIN, CUGAR LOOKS WITH EVIL JOY, AS FLASH AND DALE PLUNGE TOWARD THE DEADLY TORRENT FAR BELOW!
TAO HELP THEM-- THE RIVER'S FULL OF SHARK-FISH!
12-26

DAZED BY THE TERRIBLE FALL, FLASH STILL TRIES TO SWIM, SPURRED ON BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ONLY HE CAN SAVE DALE. BUT ALL AROUND THEM, THE WATER SEETHES WITH HIDDEN FOES...
NEXT WEEK
RIVER OF PERIL!


CUGAR'S MURDEROUS TRAP HAS THROWN FLASH AND DALE INTO A RIVER FULL OF RAVENOUS SHARKFISH. BUT FLASH'S ONLY THOUGHT IS TO RESCUE THE HALF-DROWNED GIRL---
12-28
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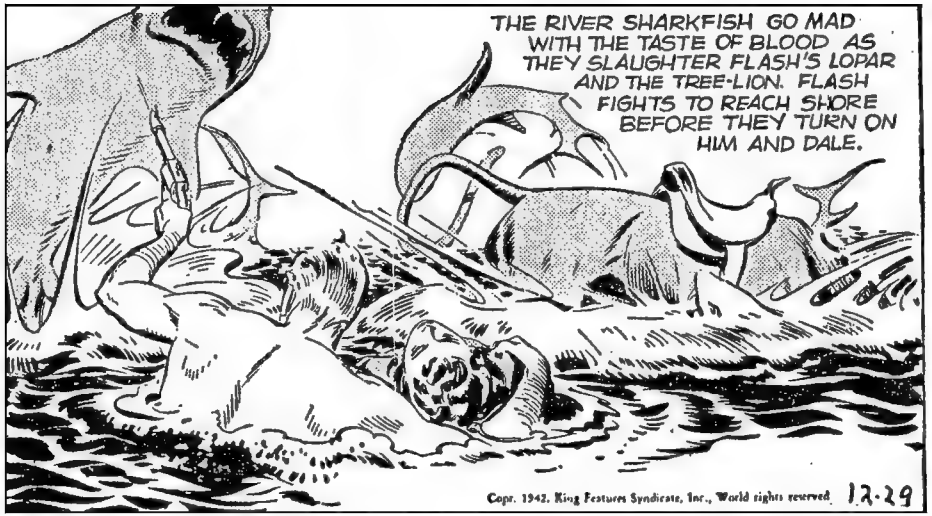
A SCREAM FROM THE SWIMMING LOPAR, AS IT FIGHTS OFF THE RIVER PIRATES THAT ARE ALREADY DEVOURING THE TREE-LION WARNS FLASH THAT DROWNING IS THE LEAST OF DALE'S PERILS!


THE RIVER SHARKFISH GO MAD WITH THE TASTE OF BLOOD AS THEY SLAUGHTER FLASH'S LOPAR AND THE TREE-LION. FLASH FIGHTS TO REACH SHORE BEFORE THEY TURN ON HIM AND DALE.
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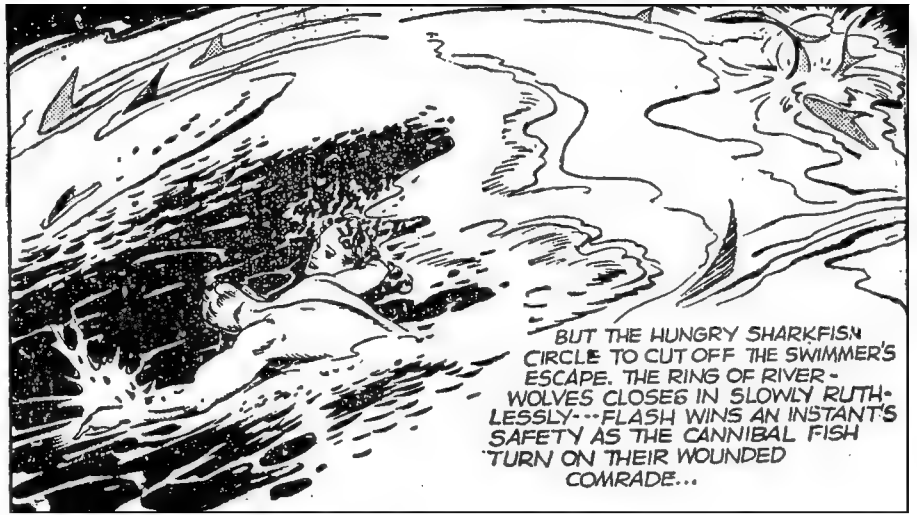
12-29


BUT THE HUNGRY SHARKFISH CIRCLE TO CUT OFF THE SWIMMER'S ESCAPE. THE RING OF RIVER-WOLVES CLOSES IN SLOWLY RUTHLESSLY---FLASH WINS AN INSTANT'S SAFETY AS THE CANNIBAL FISH TURN ON THEIR WOUNDED COMRADE...

WHAT'S HAPPENING, FLASH?
THE SHOCK OF THE COLD WATER AND THE NOISE OF FLASH'S RAY-SHOTS FINALLY ROUSE DALE.
12-30

FLASH'S HOPES RISE AS HE HEARS DALE'S DEAR VOICE AGAIN.
SWIM CLOSE TO ME WHILE I FIGHT OUR WAY TO SHORE THROUGH THESE SHARK-FISH!
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BUT NOT EVEN FLASH'S DEADLY MARKSMANSHIP CAN BREAK THROUGH THE CANNIBAL RING OF SHARKFISH! THE CIRCLE NARROWS AND FLASH TRIES TO MAKE A LAST STAND ON A SUBMERGED ROCK IN MID-STREAM.

FLASH FIGHTS HEROICALLY TO SAVE HIS BELOVED DALE--BUT IT'S HOPELESS. NO MATTER HOW MANY HE KILLS THE SAVAGE SHARKFISH KEEP ON COMING!

DALE IS A BRAVE GIRL, BUT SHE CANNOT FACE THE HORROR OF BEING TORN APART BY THE CANNIBAL FISH!
IT'S NO USE, FLASH, DEAR. SAVE YOUR LAST SHOT FOR ME!
12-31

IT IS THE HARDEST DECISION FLASH HAS EVER FACED--BUT HE KNOWS THAT HE MUST SAVE DALE FROM A CRUELER FATE THAN DEATH...
GOODBY, MY DARLING. WE'LL GO TOGETHER!
WAIT! DON'T SHOOT HER! KEEP FIGHTING ANOTHER MINUTE, FLASH!
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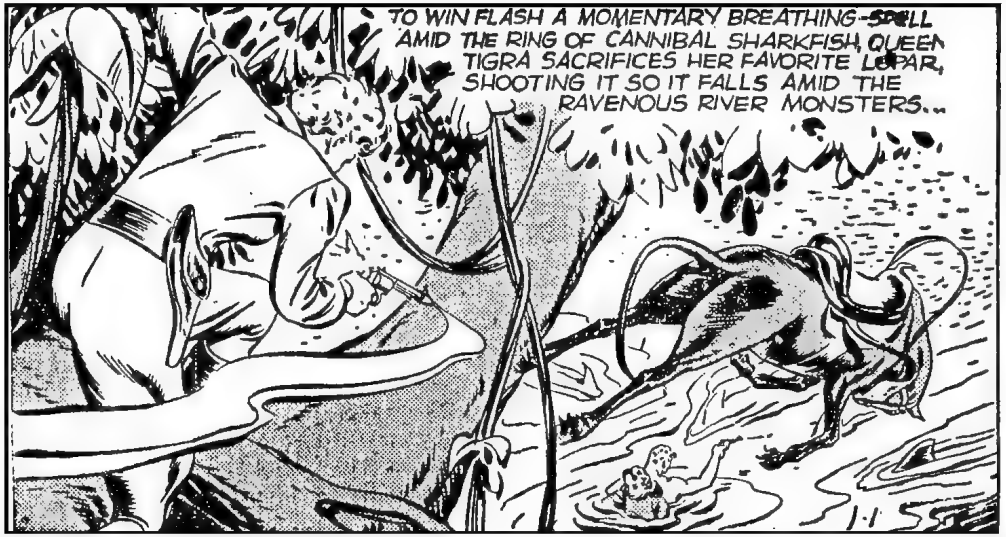
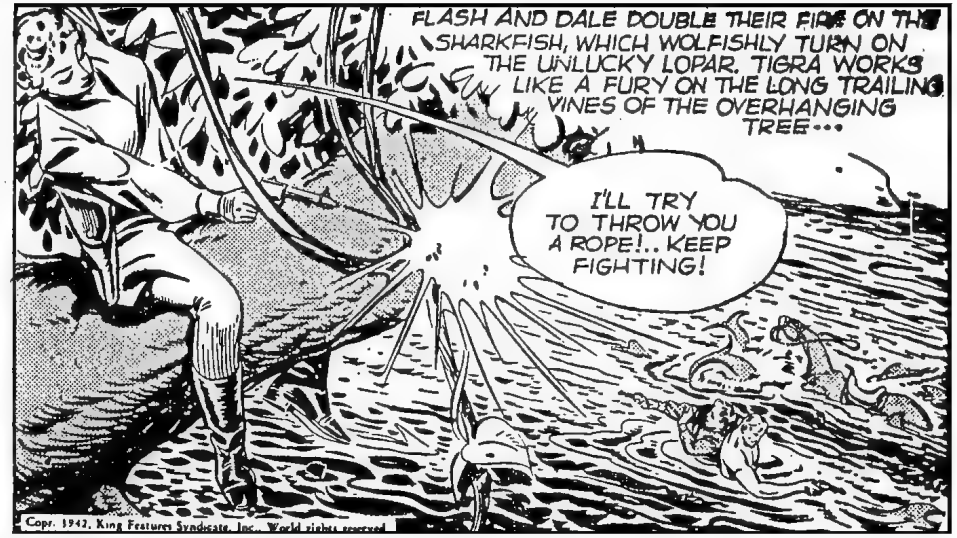

TO WIN FLASH A MOMENTARY BREATHING-SPELL AMID THE RING OF CANNIBAL SHARKFISH, QUEEN TIGRA SACRIFICES HER FAVORITE LOPAR, SHOOTING IT SO IT FALLS AMID THE RAVENOUS RIVER MONSTERS...
1-1


FLASH AND DALE DOUBLE THEIR FIRE ON THE SHARKFISH, WHICH WOLFISHLY TURN ON THE UNLUCKY LOPAR. TIGRA WORKS LIKE A FURY ON THE LONG TRAILING VINES OF THE OVERHANGING TREE...
I'LL TRY TO THROW YOU A ROPE!.. KEEP FIGHTING!
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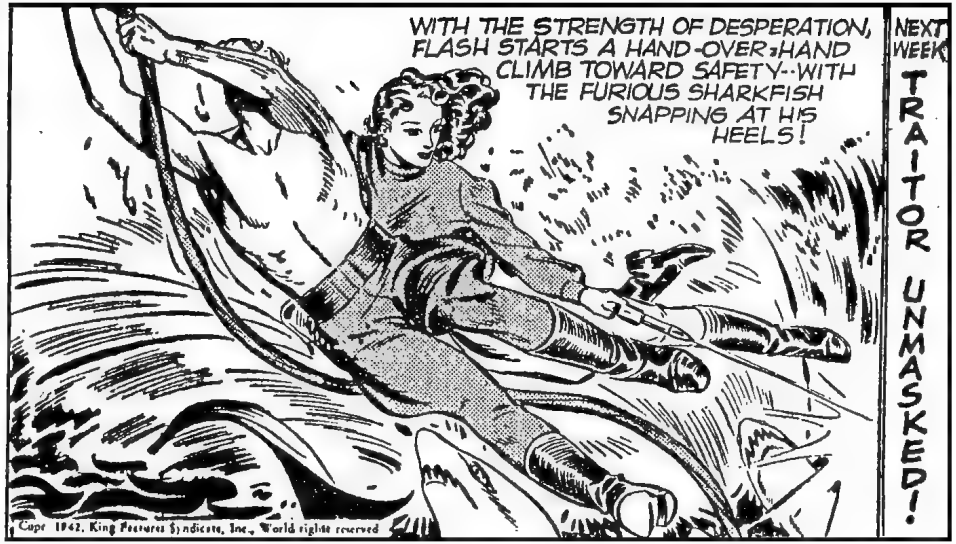
GRAB HOLD OF ME, DALE - I'LL TRY TO PULL US OUT OF THIS!
DARING, FOREST-WISE QUEEN TIGRA FLINGS A VINE-ROPE TO THE MAROONED PAIR IN THE RIVER...
1-2


WITH THE STRENGTH OF DESPERATION, FLASH STARTS A HAND-OVER-HAND CLIMB TOWARD SAFETY--WITH THE FURIOUS SHARKFISH SNAPPING AT HIS HEELS!
NEXT WEEK
TRAITOR UNMASKED!
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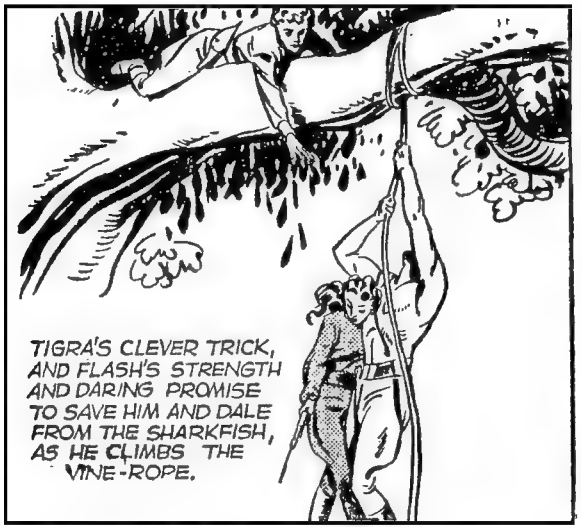
TIGRA'S CLEVER TRICK, AND FLASH'S STRENGTH AND DARING PROMISE TO SAVE HIM AND DALE FROM THE SHARKFISH, AS HE CLIMBS THE VINE-ROPE.

BY TAO'S TEETH, FLASH SHALL NOT GET. AWAY!
THE TRAITOR, CUGAR, IS FAIRLY FROTHING AT THE MOUTH, AS HE SEES HIS VICTIMS ESCAPING HIS TRAP.

MADDENED WITH HATE, CUGAR FORGETS TO BE CLEVER. HE BURSTS FROM HIS HIDING-PLACE TO SHOOT AT FLASH'S SLENDER VINE-ROPE!
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1-4

LOOK OUT, FLASH!
CUGAR'S RAY-BARRAGE SNAPS THE VINE ON WHICH FLASH AND DALE WERE CLIMBING TO ESCAPE THE SHARK-FISH!
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1-5

YOU TREACHEROUS DEVIL, I'LL HUNT YOU DOWN LIKE A RAT!
TIGRA FLINGS A FURIOUS FIRE AT CUGAR, WHO FLEES IN SUDDEN HORROR AT HAVING REVEALED HIMSELF.

SWIM TO SHORE, DALE, I'LL HOLD THEM OFF!
FLASH TREADS WATER, FIRING WITH BOTH GUNS AT THE SHARK-FISH, AS THEY CLOSE IN.

DRIVEN BY HER HORROR OF THE CANNIBAL FISH, DALE SWIMS FRANTICALLY TO SHORE.
1-6

OH, WHY DID I LEAVE YOU? WHY COULDN'T I STAY TO DIE WITH YOU?
WEAPONLESS, UNABLE TO HELP FLASH, DALE WATCHES HIS STRUGGLE WITH TRAGIC REGRET...

BUT TIGRA HAS A WEAPON--AND FROM HER LOFTY VANTAGE-POINT SHE MAKES A BOILING RING OF FIRE AROUND FLASH, GUARDING HIS REAR, AS HE SWIMS, SHOOTING TO BREAK THROUGH THE SWARM OF SHARK-FISH!
COME ON, FLASH! OH, DARLING, SAVE YOURSELF!
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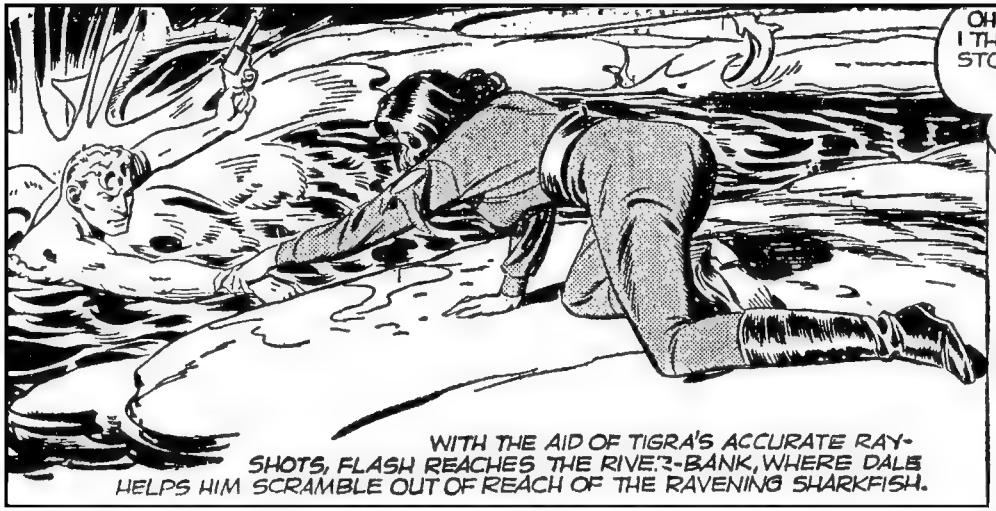
WITH THE AID OF TIGRA'S ACCURATE RAY-SHOTS, FLASH REACHES THE RIVER-BANK, WHERE DALE HELPS HIM SCRAMBLE OUT OF REACH OF THE RAVENING SHARKFISH.

OH, MY DARLING, I THINK MY HEART STOOD STILL WHILE YOU WERE SWIMMING TO SHORE!
BELIEVE ME, DALE, YOUR HEART WAS THE ONLY THING THAT WAS STANDING STILL! I NEVER SWAM SO FAST IN MY LIFE!

OH, FLASH, MY HERO... YOU'RE SAFE AT LAST!
TIGRA SWINGS DOWN A VINE-ROPE TOWARD FLASH.
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1-7

OH, FLASH, THANK TAO, YOU ESCAPED!
IT IS THANKS TO YOUR GOOD SHOOTING THAT DALE AND I ARE STILL ALIVE. I'LL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR SAVING HER, TIGRA.
1-8
OH, YES. I WASN'T THINKING MUCH ABOUT YOU, DALE.
WELL..THANK YOU, ANYWAY, TIGRA.
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LOOK OUT! CUGAR'S TRYING TO KILL US!
IN THEIR EXCITEMENT THEY'VE FORGOTTEN CUGAR..UNTIL A RAY-SHOT BARELY MISSES TIGRA!
CUGAR REALIZES HE CAN'T LET TIGRA GET BACK TO THE CAPITAL, NOW THAT SHE KNOWS HE TRIED TO KILL FLASH - SO HE HURLS A RAY-BARRAGE AT THE STARTLED GROUP ON THE RIVER-BANK.
FLASH'S SWIFT FIRE DRIVES CUGAR TO SHELTER FOR THE MOMENT....
TAO BLAST THAT MURDEROUS TRAITOR! I'LL MAKE HIM PAY FOR THIS!
I'D BE A LOT MORE CERTAIN OF THAT, IF HADN'T JUST USED UP MY LAST RAY-CHARGE!
1-9
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NEXT WEEK
STALKING THE HUNTERS!

CUGAR'S AMBUSH HAS US IN A TIGHT SPOT. HE HAS A LOPAR TO RIDE, WE HAVE TO WALK. MY RAY-GUN IS EMPTY NOW! HOW ABOUT YOURS?
MINE SHOULD BE GOOD FOR A FEW MORE SHOTS, DEAR. TAKE IT...

I STILL HAVE HALF MY RAY CHARGES LEFT, BUT I'LL KEEP MY GUN, FLASH!
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SUDDENLY, CUGAR'S WELL-AIMED SHOT FROM AMBUSH NEARLY CATCHES THEM UNAWARES...
1-11

WE HAVEN'T ENOUGH RAY-CHARGES FOR A LONG-RANGE DUEL--AND IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU GIRLS. HE MIGHT EVEN KNOCK THIS TREE DOWN ON US!
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I'LL FIRE A FEW SHOTS TO MAKE HIM TAKE COVER--WHILE YOU TWO RUN FARTHER INTO THE FOREST. I'LL FOLLOW!
1-12

FLASH'S FIRE IS SO CLOSE TO CUGAR'S AMBUSH THAT THE TRAITOR DOESN'T DARE EXPOSE HIMSELF--AND DALE AND TIGRA RELUCTANTLY RUN TO SAFETY

FLASH'S RAY-BARRAGE KEEPS THE MURDEROUS CUGAR IN HIDING, AS FLASH FALLS BACK, COVERING THE GIRL'S' RETREAT.
I WAS SO AFRAID YOU'D GET HIT IN ALL THAT SHOOTING, DEAR!
I WAS DOING MOST OF THE SHOOTING, DALE. CUGAR WON'T TAKE A CHANCE, IF THE OTHER MAN HAS A GUN.
BY TAO, WHY DIDN'T YOU STAY AND KILL THE TRAITOR?
BECAUSE, MY LITTLE FIREBRAND, YOUR BRAVE CUGAR STAYED HIDDEN, AS LONG AS I KEPT SHOOTING--AND BECAUSE IT'S MY JOB TO PROTECT YOU TWO.
I'M GOING DOWN TO THE RIVER AND SHOOT IT OUT WITH THAT INSOLENT TRAITOR!
NO, YOU AREN'T YOU CRAZY SPIT-FIRE! HE'S JUST WAITING TO AMBUSH YOU. YOU'LL FOLLOW MY PLAN...
LISTEN--CUGAR HAS A LEOPARD-HORSE AND CAN LEAP THE RIVER AT ANY TREE-BRIDGE. OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO TRICK HIM. YOU TWO GO UP-STREAM, AS QUIETLY AS YOU CAN... I'LL START DOWNSTREAM WITH A LOT OF NOISE, THEN CIRCLE BACK AND JOIN YOU!
TIGRA STALKS OFF SILENTLY, WONDERING HOW THIS MAN, FLASH GORDON, CAN MAKE THE QUEEN OF FORESTIA TAKE ORDERS--AND LIKE IT.
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HALF A MILE DOWNSTREAM, FLASH MAKES A COMMOTION TO LURE THE TRAITOR CUGAR IN THE WRONG DIRECTION---

HOPING HE HAS SENT CUGAR ON A WILD-GOOSE CHASE, FLASH TURNS ON HIS TRACKS AND HURRIES BACK UP-STREAM TO JOIN DALE AND TIGRA--

AS IF TO MOCK FLASH'S CLEVER PLAN, A REAL TREE-LION HAS SCENTED THE TWO GIRLS-- AND IS STALKING THEM WITH HUNGRY GREED!

1-15

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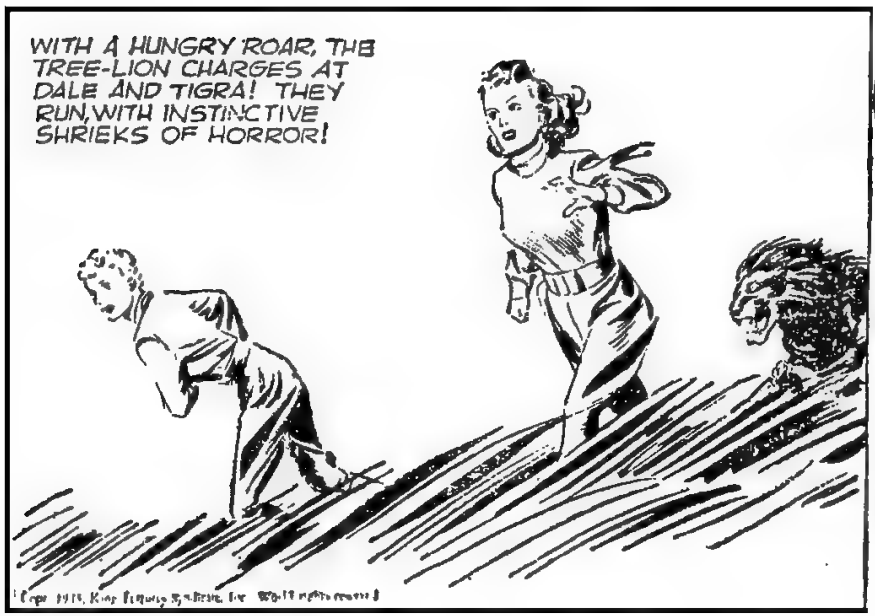

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1-16

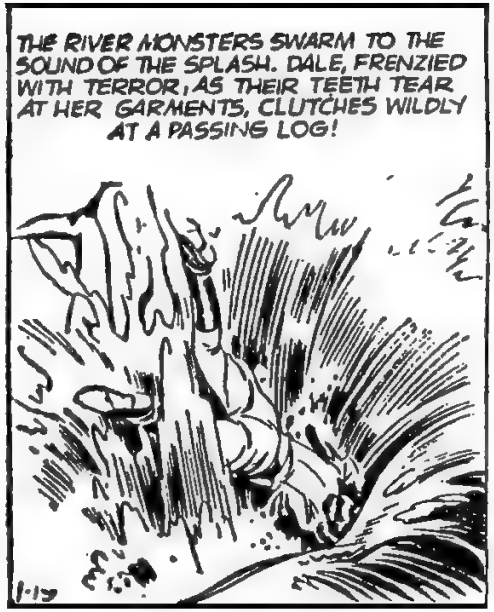
TIGRA PULLS HER RAY-PISTOL TO SHOOT THE LION--BUT WHEN SHE SEES IT CHASING DALE, SHE HOLDS HER FIRE---

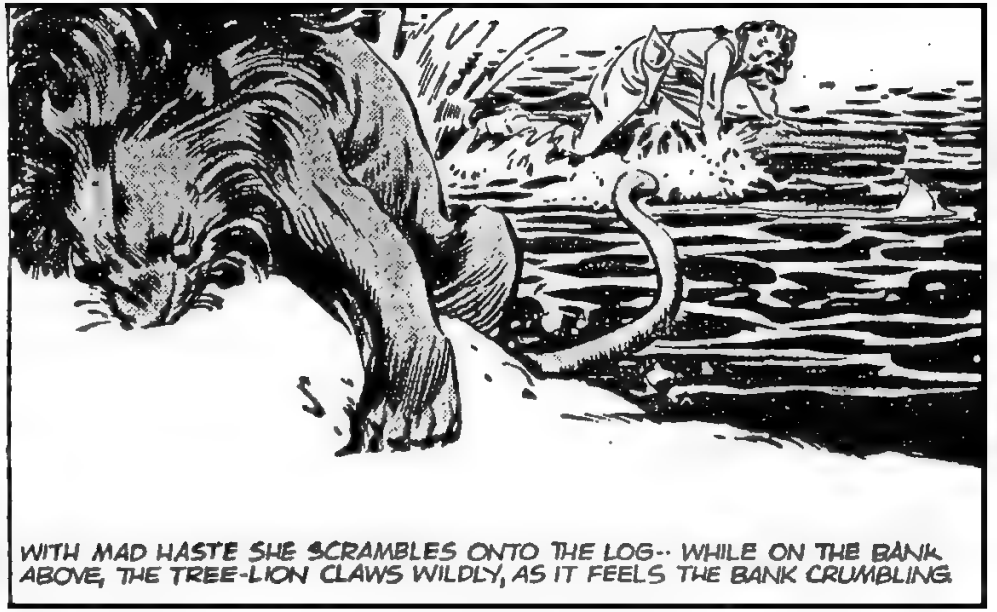
TIGRA RUTHLESSLY REFUSES TO FIRE THE RAY-SHOT THAT WOULD SAVE DALE FROM THE CHARGING TREE-LION
HELP! FLASH!

TRAPPED AT THE RIVER-BANK, DALE HESITATES IN HORROR AT THE THOUGHT OF THE WAITING SHARKFISH!

THE LION SPRINGS--AND DALE INSTINCTIVELY LEAPS AWAY FROM ITS OUTSTRETCHED CLAWS ...
1-18

HUNTED BY A RAVENOUS TREE-LION, DALE LEAPS INTO THE RIVER.... A TREACHEROUS TORRENT FILLED WITH RAZOR-FANGED SHARKFISH!
GOOD-BYE FLASH!


THE RIVER MONSTERS SWARM TO THE SOUND OF THE SPLASH. DALE, FRENZIED WITH TERROR, AS THEIR TEETH TEAR AT HER GARMENTS, CLUTCHES WILDLY AT A PASSING LOG!
1-19


WITH MAD HASTE SHE SCRAMBLES ONTO THE LOG-- WHILE ON THE BANK ABOVE, THE TREE-LION CLAWS WILDLY, AS IT FEELS THE BANK CRUMBLING

WITH A DESPERATE SPRING, THE TREE-LION LEAPS FOR THE LOG, WHICH IS DALE'S REFUGE!
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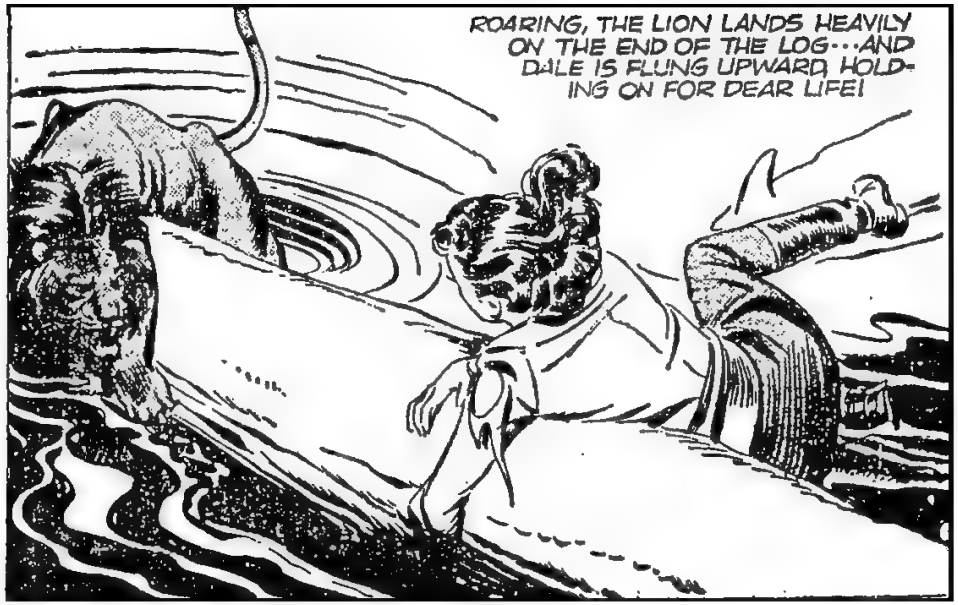
1-20


ROARING, THE LION LANDS HEAVILY ON THE END OF THE LOG···AND DALE IS FLUNG UPWARD, HOLDING ON FOR DEAR LIFE!

A WOMAN'S CURIOSITY DRAWS TIGRA IRRESISTIBLY TO THE RIVER-BANK··· TO SEE WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE RIVAL WHOM SHE HAS REFUSED TO SAVE.
1-21

EVEN TIGRA'S JEALOUSY IS MORE THAN SATISFIED BY THE TRAGIC SIGHT. DALE IS BEING CARRIED DOWN THE TURBULENT, SHARKFISH-INFESTED RIVER···WHILE THE TREE-LION SLOWLY, HUNGRILY CLAWS HIS WAY TOWARD HER ON THE LOG!
I HATED HER···BUT I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR HER NOW. WHAT A FATE!
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TAO FORGIVE ME! I HOPE HER END IS QUICK··AND PAINLESS!
TIGRA IS SHAKEN BY THE FEARFUL DOOM OF THE GIRL SHE HAS GROWN TO HATE.

NOW THERE IS NO ONE TO COME BETWEEN ME AND THE MAN I LOVE·· FLASH!
BUT THE QUEEN OF FORESTIA IS NOT ONE WHO WASTES TIME IN LONG REGRETS···

AND SOON, ACCORDING TO THE PLAN HE HAD MADE WITH TIGRA AND DALE, FLASH CATCHES UP···
HELLO, TIGRA ···WHERE'S DALE?
THANK TAO! YOU'VE COME AT LAST!
1-22

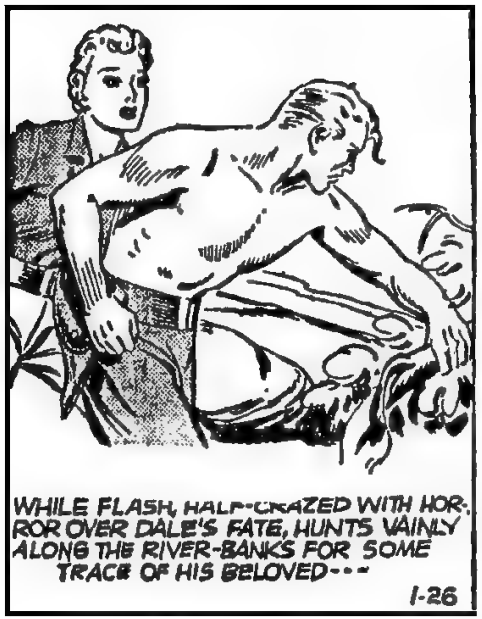
WHERE'S DALE, TIGRA? YOU GIRLS WERE TO STAY TOGETHER 'TIL I JOINED YOU·
WELL· YOU SEE·· OH, FLASH, I CAN HARDLY BEAR TO TELL YOU··

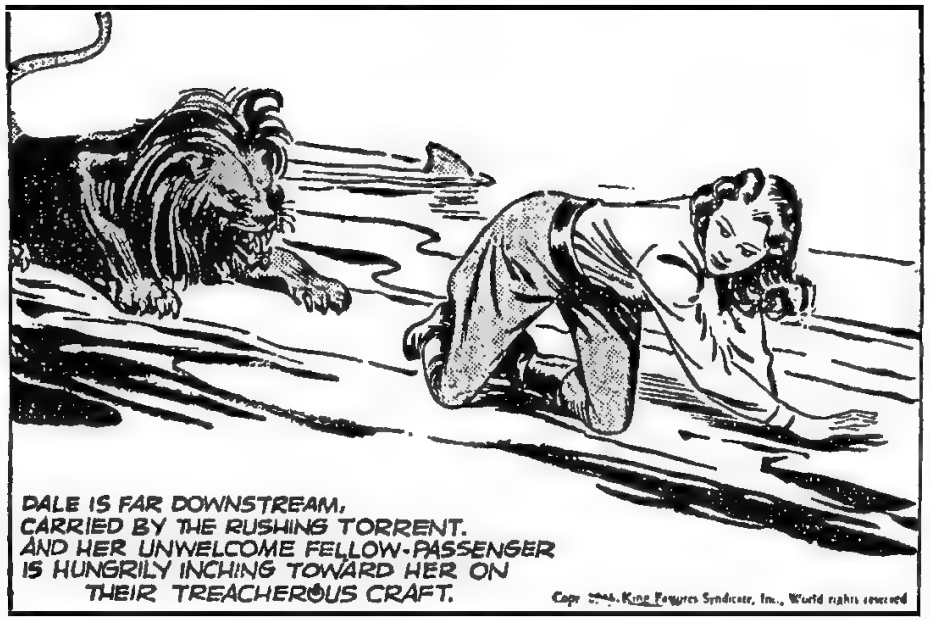
HURRY! TELL ME!
IT WAS TERRIBLE··A TREE-LION ATTACKED HER! THEY BOTH DIED AMONG THE SHARKFISH!
1-23

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! DALE MUSTN'T DIE····
YOU SEE ····IT'S TRUE!
FLASH GOES BERSERK. WILDLY, HE DRAGS TIGRA BACK TO THE RIVER· BANK, WHERE THE CLAW· MARKS AND BROKEN BANK TELL AN ALL TOO· CONVINCING STORY.
NEXT WEEK RIVER OF TRAGEDY!

HERE'S THE LION'S TRACK···
YES, THIS IS WHERE DALE AND THE LION WENT INTO THE RIVER.
AS TIGRA SEES FLASH'S FRENZY OVER THE LOSS OF DALE, SHE FEARS SHE HAS LOST HIM FOREVER··EVEN THOUGH HER RIVAL IS GONE.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. DALE CAN'T BE DEAD! COME ON, WE'LL HUNT FOR THEM DOWNSTREAM!
NO, FLASH, IT'S NO USE! I TELL YOU, I SAW THEM EATEN BY THE SHARK-FISH··IT WAS TERRIBLE!
WHAT IF FLASH SHOULD FIND PROOF OF MY TREACHERY?
1-25.


WHILE FLASH, HALF-CRAZED WITH HORROR OVER DALE'S FATE, HUNTS VAINLY ALONG THE RIVER-BANKS FOR SOME TRACE OF HIS BELOVED···
1-26


DALE IS FAR DOWNSTREAM, CARRIED BY THE RUSHING TORRENT. AND HER UNWELCOME FELLOW-PASSENGER IS HUNGRILY INCHING TOWARD HER ON THEIR TREACHEROUS CRAFT.

GET AWAY, OR I'LL DROWN US BOTH!
WITH THE COURAGE OF DESPERATION, DALE TWISTS ON THE LOG TO MAKE IT OVERTURN, SHOUTING AT THE LION, AS IF IT COULD UNDERSTAND HER.

RECKLESSLY, DALE SPINS THE LOG, KEEPING THE LION TOO BUSY TO ATTACK HER.
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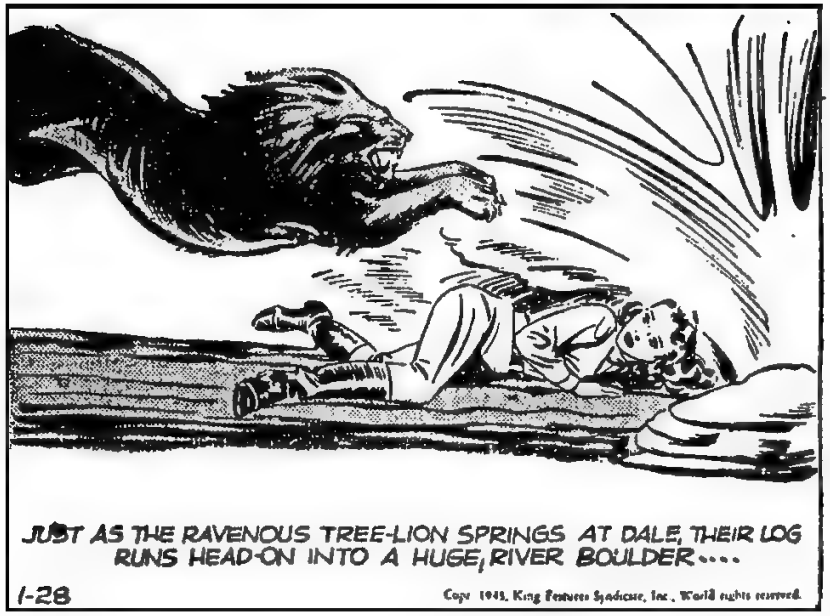
BUT DALE SOON GETS DIZZY AND STOPS, TRYING WILDLY TO CATCH HER BALANCE...
1-27

THE HUNGRY BEAST INSTANTLY LEAPS AT ITS PREY!


JUST AS THE RAVENOUS TREE-LION SPRINGS AT DALE, THEIR LOG RUNS HEAD-ON INTO A HUGE, RIVER BOULDER....
1-28
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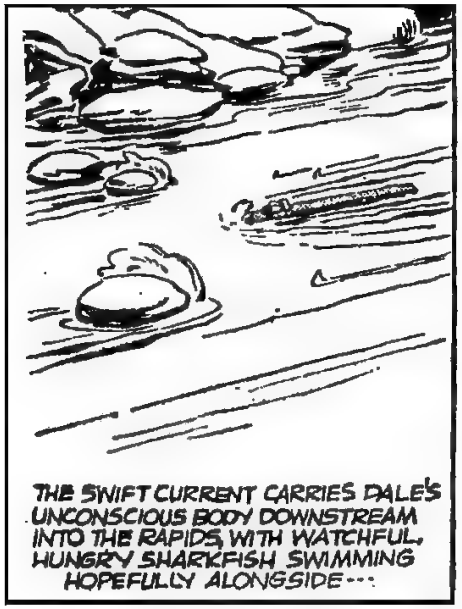
THE LION'S MOMENTUM CARRIES IT AGAINST THE BOULDER···AND INTO THE WATER, HALF-DAZED BY THE SHOCK···

TO DALE'S HORROR, THE LION TRIES TO CLIMB BACK ONTO THE LOG!

DALE IS BEING DRIVEN FROM HER LAST REFUGE, AS THE STARVING TREE-LION STARTS TO CLAMBER ONTO HER LOG. BUT SUDDENLY THE BEAST TURNS FROM HER, TO BITE SAVAGELY AT ITS OWN ATTACKERS ... THE CANNIBAL SHARKFISH!
1-29

MAD WITH THE TASTE OF BLOOD, THE RIVER MONSTERS SWARM ON THE DOOMED LION ...

THE HORRIBLE SIGHT IS TOO MUCH FOR DALE. SHE SLUMPS IN A FAINT ON HER PRECARIOUS LOG VESSEL.


THE SWIFT CURRENT CARRIES DALE'S UNCONSCIOUS BODY DOWNSTREAM INTO THE RAPIDS, WITH WATCHFUL, HUNGRY SHARKFISH SWIMMING HOPEFULLY ALONGSIDE ...

MEAN-TIME, FLASH STILL HUNTS FOR DALE ...
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU. DALE CAN'T BE DEAD!
LOOK! WHAT'S THAT ON A SAND BAR AHEAD?
1-30

IT ISN'T DALE-- IT'S A TREE-LION'S SKELETON.
IT'S THE LION THAT KILLED DALE. THE SHARKFISH AVENGED HER!
NEXT WEEK IN HOSTILE HANDS!

FLASH GOES INTO A BLIND RAGE AT THE LION WHICH HAD ATTACKED DALE..
YOU DEVIL! YOUR FATE WAS TOO GOOD FOR YOU!
2-1
COME BACK, FLASH! YOU MUST WATCH OUT OR THE SHARKFISH WILL EAT YOU, TOO!
WHAT DO I CARE, IF THEY KILL ME? DALE IS DEAD!
YOU MUSTN'T GRIEVE LIKE THIS, FLASH. IT WON'T HELP POOR DALE.
IT ISN'T SO! DALE CAN'T BE DEAD! TELL ME YOU LIED ABOUT SEEING HER KILLED!
IT'S TRUE, FLASH--STOP-- YOU'RE HURTING ME!
2-2
I WON'T BELIEVE IT! I'LL HUNT FOR DALE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!
TIGRA IS APPALLED AT THE EFFECT OF HER HALF-LIE ABOUT DALE, BUT SHE DOESN'T DARE ADMIT THAT SHE DIDN'T ACTUALLY SEE DALE KILLED. BESIDES, SHE IS SURE DALE IS DEAD BY NOW.

IT'S NO USE, MY POOR FLASH!
HALF-CRAZED BY DALE'S LOSS, FLASH HAUNTS THE RIVER BANKS ALL DAY, SEARCHING FOR HER--OR, HE FEARS, FOR HER BODY...

NOT EVEN FLASH'S GREAT STRENGTH CAN STAND THE MAD PACE AND THE MENTAL ANGUISH. TOWARD NIGHTFALL HE SLIPS TO THE GROUND.
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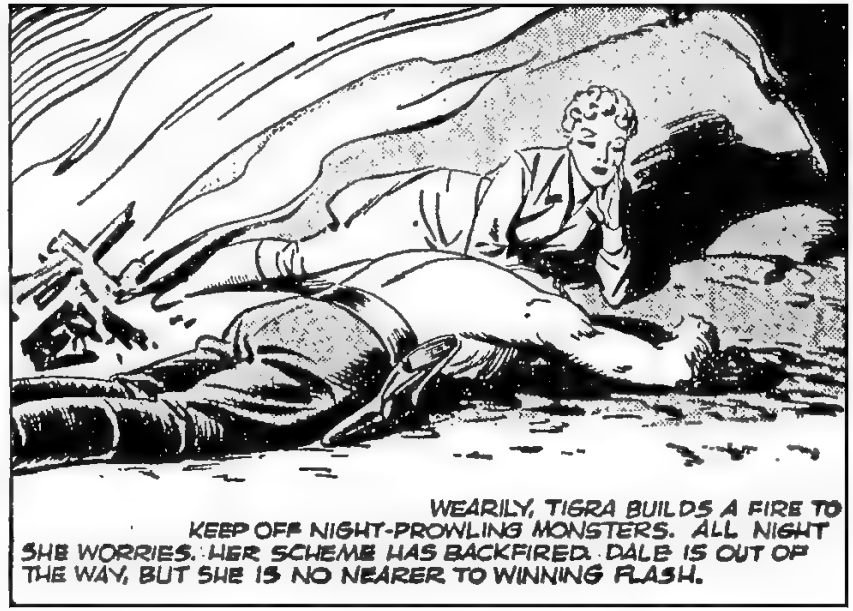
2-3


WEARILY, TIGRA BUILDS A FIRE TO KEEP OFF NIGHT-PROWLING MONSTERS. ALL NIGHT SHE WORRIES. HER SCHEME HAS BACKFIRED. DALE IS OUT OF THE WAY, BUT SHE IS NO NEARER TO WINNING FLASH.

WHILE FLASH SEARCHES THE RIVER BANKS, LOYALLY REFUSING TO BELIEVE DALE IS DEAD, THE POOR GIRL FLOATS DOWNSTREAM, UNCONSCIOUS...

HER LUCK RUNS OUT. A SWIFT CROSS-CURRENT SPLINTERS HER LOG AGAINST A HUGE BOULDER!
2-4

THE SHOCK OF THE WATER ROUSES HER···AND THE SHARP, SLASHING TEETH OF THE RIVER'S CANNIBAL SHARKFISH SPUR HER INTO A LAST DESPERATE EFFORT.
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FOR A MOMENT DALE HUDDLES ON THE ROCK, SHAKING WITH FRIGHT AT HER NARROW ESCAPE FROM THE SHARKFISH.
2-5
HERE, TAKE THE OTHER BOOT, YOU UGLY DEVIL! I CAN'T WALK ON ONE BOOT---AND I GUESS I HAVEN'T ANY PLACE TO WALK, ANYWAY!
DALE SHOUTS FOR HELP, ALTHOUGH SHE KNOWS FLASH MUST BE FAR UPSTREAM. BUT HER SHOUT BRINGS RESULTS--- CUGAR!
FLASH IS TOO FAR UPSTREAM TO HEAR YOUR SHOUTS FOR HELP, DALE, BUT I CAN SAVE YOU--IF YOU BEG ME TO!
NO! GO AWAY!
LET ME ALONE!
2-6
YOU'RE SO UNGRATEFUL, DALE...BUT I THINK I'LL SAVE YOU, IN SPITE OF YOURSELF. I HAVE AN IDEA OF HOW TO GET REVENGE ON FLASH.
FLASH! HELP!
NEXT WEEK
THE NOOSE OF FATE!

DON'T WORRY, DALE, I'LL RESCUE YOU!
2-8
NO! NO! I'D RATHER DIE THAN FALL INTO YOUR HANDS!
BE SENSIBLE, DALE. I WON'T HURT YOU. CATCH THIS VINE-ROPE AND I'LL SAVE YOU.
DALE TRIES TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO PERILS···THE TREACHEROUS CUGAR AND THE RIVER'S CANNIBAL SHARKFISH!
GOOD-BYE, FLASH··I'M DOING THIS FOR YOUR SAKE. I WON'T LET CUGAR USE ME TO BAIT A TRAP TO KILL YOU!
2-9
BUT CUGAR WILL NOT BE CHEATED OF HIS PREY. HIS VINE-NOOSE CATCHES DALE AND PULLS HER BACK, IN SPITE OF HER STRUGGLES!

DESPITE DALE'S STRUGGLES, CUGAR'S NOOSE SNATCHES HER FROM THE RIVER AND SWINGS HER HELPLESSLY TOWARD THE SHORE, LIKE A GIANT PENDULUM...
DAZED AND BRUISED BY THE SHOCK OF HER LANDING, DALE FIGHTS HER WAY OUT OF THE VINE ROPE.
BUT CUGAR SPURS HIS LEOPARD-HORSE TOWARD HIS PRETTY VICTIM.
DON'T HURRY, DALE, I'LL HELP YOU!
THE BAREFOOT GIRL FLEES WILDLY FROM CUGAR'S PURSUIT!
HELP! FLASH!
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2-11
FLASH CAN'T HELP YOU NOW, MY LITTLE SPITFIRE.
LET ME GO!
IT'S NO USE TO FIGHT ME, DALE! YOU'RE MY PRISONER ...AND YOUR PRECIOUS FLASH WILL BE MY PRISONER SOON!

EXHAUSTED BY HIS WILD HUNT FOR DALE, FLASH SLEEPS LIKE A LOG.
MY POOR FLASH!
2-12
TIME TO GET GOING, FLASH!
DALE! I DREAMED YOU WERE DEAD···
TIGRA VENTURES TO WAKE HIM WITH A KISS···
DALE! DALE! ALWAYS DALE! CAN'T YOU EVER THINK OF ME? FACE THE TRUTH, FLASH··· DALE IS DEAD!
OH, NO··· I REMEMBER NOW··· THE TREE-LION!··· TIGRA, TELL ME IT ISN'T SO!
FLASH'S GRIEF ALMOST MAKES TIGRA WEAKEN AND ADMIT THAT SHE DIDN'T ACTUALLY SEE DALE DIE. BUT SHE IS PLAYING FOR HIGH STAKES··· SHE'S GOING TO WIN FLASH, OR LOSE HIM FOREVER.
2-13
IT'S TRUE, FLASH. I SAW THE SHARK-FISH KILL HER AND THE LION.
VERY WELL. I BELIEVE YOU AT LAST, TIGRA·· BUT I'LL NEVER LEAVE TILL I FIND HER AND GIVE HER A QUIET RESTING-PLACE.
NO, FLASH·· PLEASE, LET'S GET AWAY FROM THIS HORRIBLE RIVER!
NEXT WEEK
THE BAITED TRAP!

THE TREACHEROUS CUGAR HAS CAPTURED DALE--BUT SHE FIGHTS HIM LIKE A WILDCAT...
LET ME ALONE!
QUIT STRUGGLING, DALE, I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS! FLASH WILL KILL YOU!
OH, NO. YOU'RE THE BAIT FOR A TRAP THAT WILL CATCH FLASH. THEN HE'LL PAY FOR WHAT HE DID TO ME!
2-15
YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME CATCH FLASH, MY DEAR!
NEVER!
WHY DON'T YOU SCREAM FOR HELP? THAT'LL BRING HIM.
YOU CAN KILL ME, BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE ME HELP YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW, YOU FIEND?
I'M LAYING OUT A "WELCOME" ON THE MAT FOR FLASH WHEN HE COMES LOOKING FOR YOU!
2-16

DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LET FLASH WALK INTO YOUR TRAP CUGAR?
YOU AREN'T GOING TO HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT, DALE. YOU CAN ONLY WATCH HIM GET CAUGHT!
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HELPLESSLY, DALE WATCHES CUGAR SET A NETWORK OF HIDDEN NOOSES AROUND HER, WITH BENT SAPLINGS READY TO SPRING THE TRAP, IF FLASH COMES TO HER RESCUE!
2-17
NOW THAT I HAVE MY TRAP SET, I'LL CALL FOR FLASH!
I'M SURE YOU WON'T OBJECT TO MY SIGNING YOUR NAME TO THIS S.O.S., DALE.
2-18
MEANTIME, ACROSS THE RIVER, FLASH HAS REACHED A HILL AND IS SIGNALLING THE HORIZON WITHOUT MUCH HOPE, UNTIL SUDDENLY---
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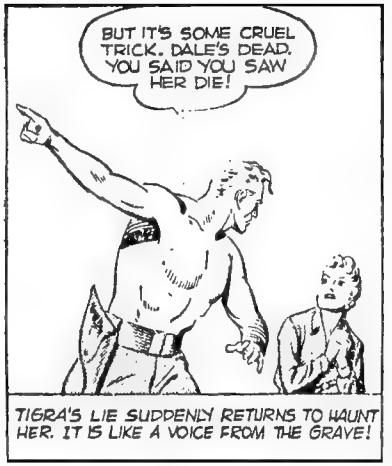
"S-O-S... DA-LE"!
FLASH HARDLY BREATHES WITH SUSPENSE, AS HE SPELLS OUT THE SMOKE MESSAGE WHICH CUGAR IS CRAFTILY SENDING.


BUT IT'S SOME CRUEL TRICK. DALE'S DEAD. YOU SAID YOU SAW HER DIE!
TIGRA'S LIE SUDDENLY RETURNS TO HAUNT HER. IT IS LIKE A VOICE FROM THE GRAVE!

YOU'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME, FLASH--BUT I CAN'T LIE TO YOU ANY MORE. DALE WAS STILL ALIVE WHEN I LAST SAW HER-- SHE WAS FLOATING DOWN-STREAM ON A LOG.
2-19

ARE YOU TELLING ME THE TRUTH NOW? YOU AREN'T JUST TRYING TO GIVE ME FALSE HOPE?
IT'S TRUE, DALE MAY BE STILL ALIVE. I DIDN'T THINK SHE COULD SURVIVE, BUT--I GUESS SHE HAS.

THEN COME ON! WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
GOOD-BYE, FLASH, I'VE LOST YOU FOREVER!
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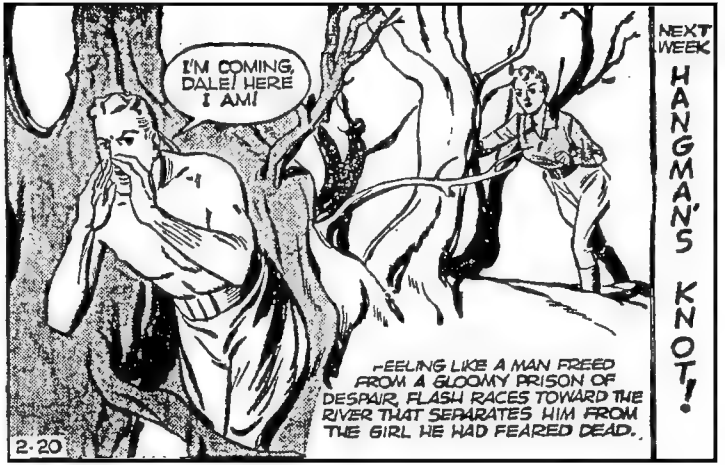
I'M COMING, DALE! HERE I AM!
FEELING LIKE A MAN FREED FROM A GLOOMY PRISON OF DESPAIR, FLASH RACES TOWARD THE RIVER THAT SEPARATES HIM FROM THE GIRL HE HAD FEARED DEAD.
2-20
NEXT WEEK
HANGMAN'S KNOT!

WATCH OUT FOR THE SHARK-FISH!
LURED BY CUGAR'S SMOKE SIGNAL, WHICH HE BELIEVES IS AN SOS FROM DALE, FLASH RACES TO THE RIVER'S EDGE.
2-22
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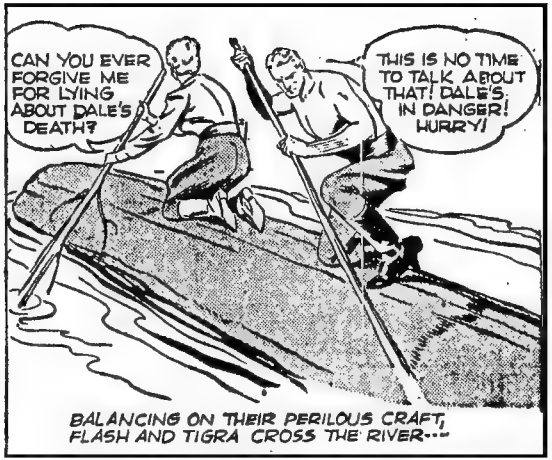
WITH MAD HASTE FLASH BLASTS DOWN A TREE TO SERVE AS A MAKE-SHIFT CANOE---


CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME FOR LYING ABOUT DALE'S DEATH?
THIS IS NO TIME TO TALK ABOUT THAT! DALE'S IN DANGER! HURRY!
BALANCING ON THEIR PERILOUS CRAFT, FLASH AND TIGRA CROSS THE RIVER---

CUGAR HEARS FLASH'S SHOUTS ACROSS THE RIVER--
HA! MY SCHEME'S WORKING, BUT HE'LL BE SUSPICIOUS, IF HE SEES YOU TIED UP---

RUTHLESS IN HIS HUNGER FOR REVENGE, CUGAR CRUSHES TWO EVIL-LOOKING FOREST HERBS TOGETHER, AND HOLDS THE NOXIOUS PLANTS BENEATH DALE'S NOSE. SHE SLUMPS INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS.

LEAVING HER UNBOUND IS BETTER. HE'LL SEE HER AND COME RUNNING ACROSS MY HAIR-TRIGGER TRAP!
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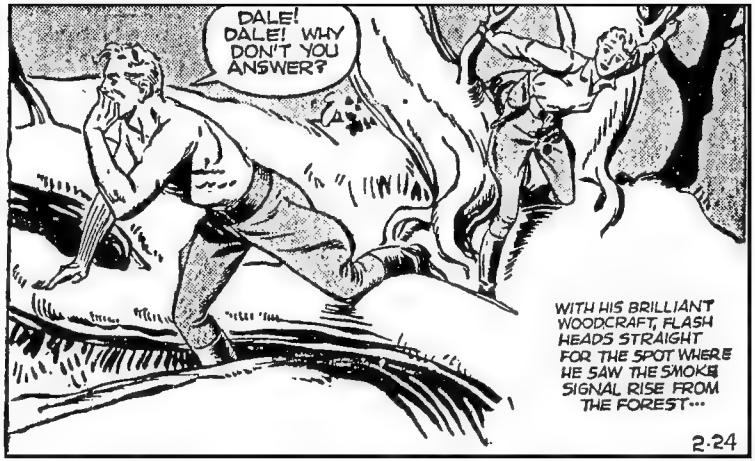
2-23

I'LL DO ANY-THING I CAN TO HELP FLASH.
NEVER MIND THAT NOW. COME ON! DALE'S IN DANGER!
TIGRA IS GENUINELY ANXIOUS TO ATONE FOR HER SCHEME TO GET RID OF HER RIVAL, DALE.


DALE! DALE! WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER?
WITH HIS BRILLIANT WOODCRAFT, FLASH HEADS STRAIGHT FOR THE SPOT WHERE HE SAW THE SMOKE SIGNAL RISE FROM THE FOREST···
2-24

AT THE EDGE OF THE CLEARING, WHERE CUGAR HAS SET HIS TRAP, FLASH HALTS WITH PRICKLING SCALP···HE HAS A STRONG SENSE OF HIDDEN DANGER····

BUT CUGAR'S SNARES ARE WELL-HIDDEN. FLASH SEES THE SIGNAL FIRE, AND THEN···
DALE! I'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST!
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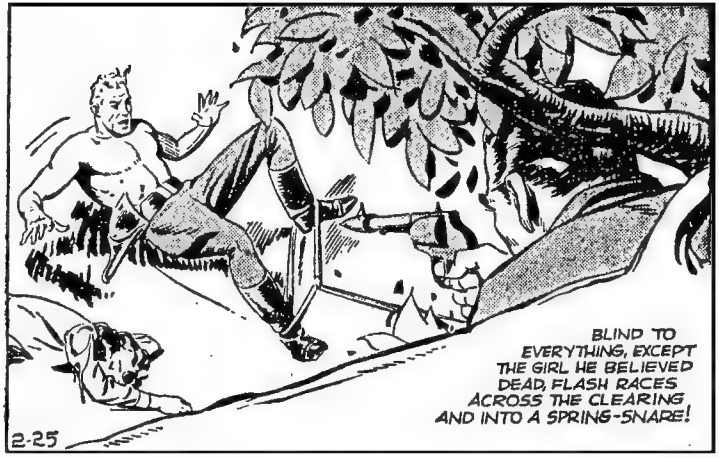
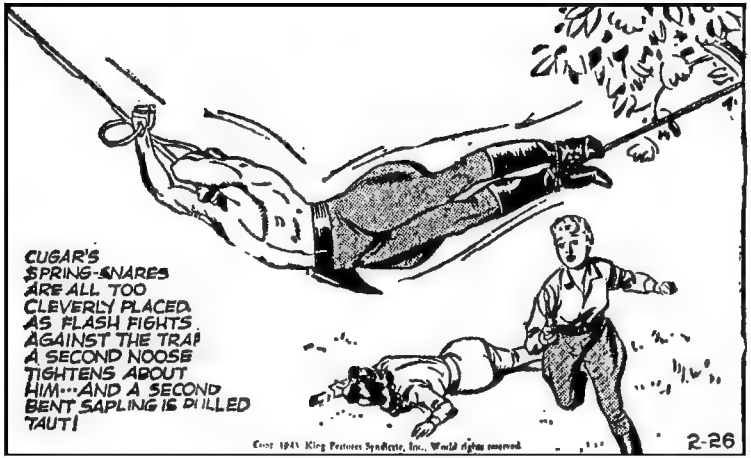

BLIND TO EVERYTHING, EXCEPT THE GIRL HE BELIEVED DEAD, FLASH RACES ACROSS THE CLEARING AND INTO A SPRING-SNARE!
2-25


CUGAR'S SPRING-SNARES ARE ALL TOO CLEVERLY PLACED. AS FLASH FIGHTS AGAINST THE TRAP A SECOND NOOSE TIGHTENS ABOUT HIM···AND A SECOND BENT SAPLING IS PULLED TAUT!
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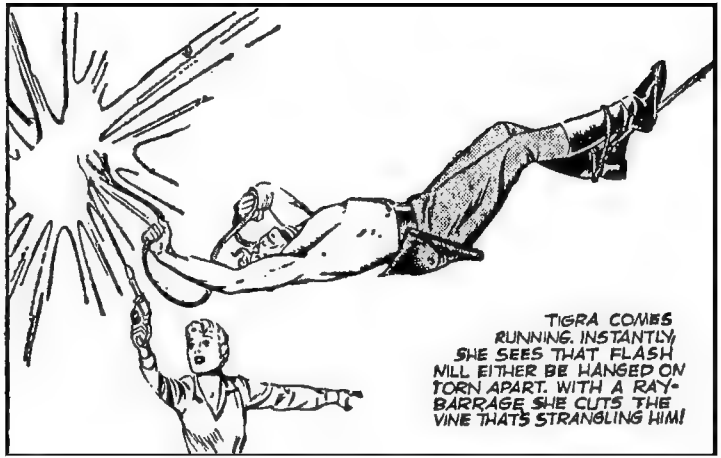
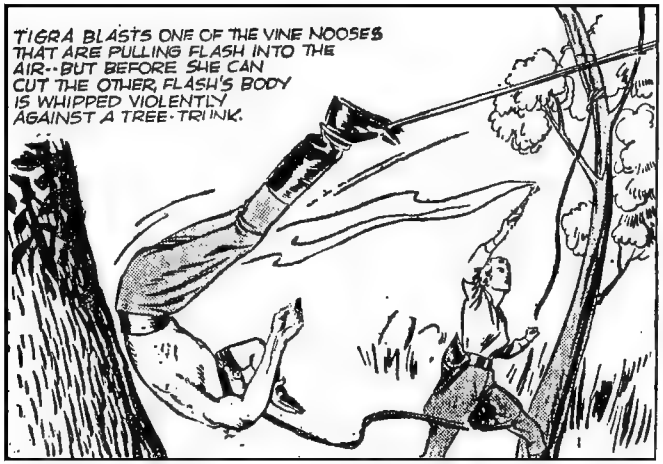
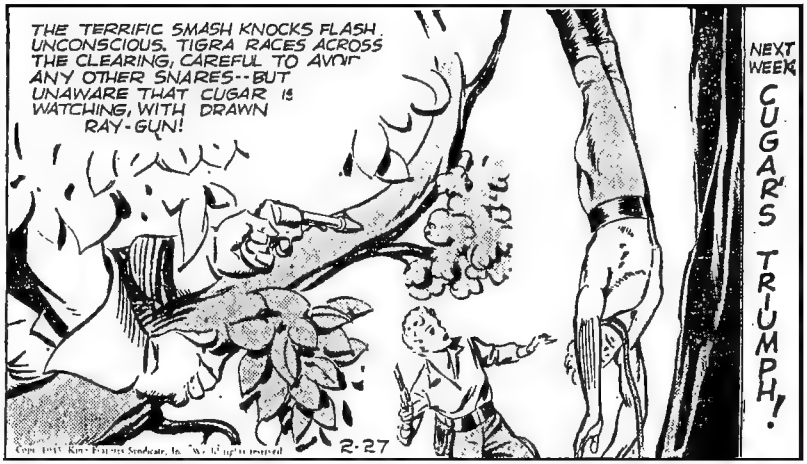
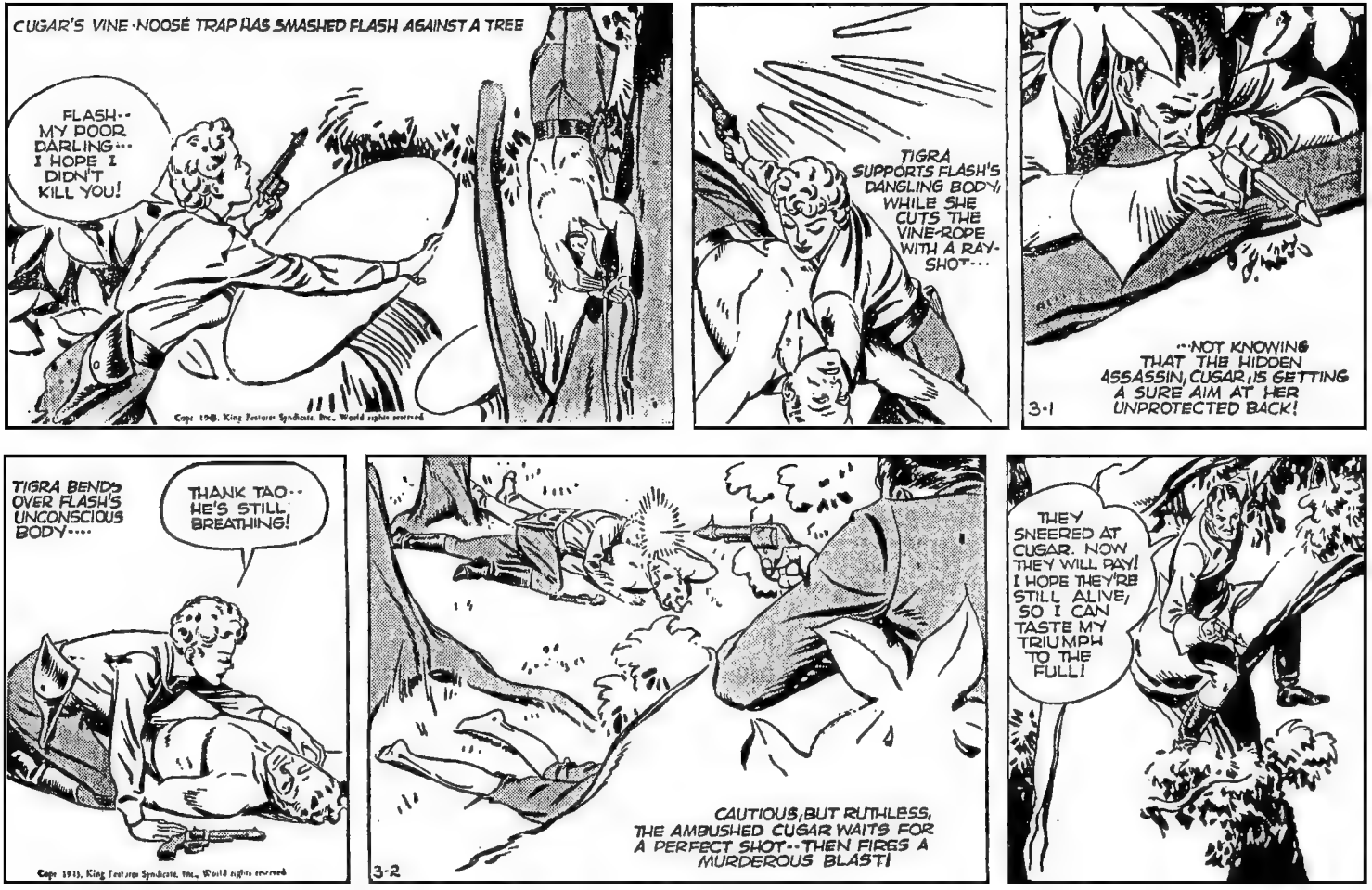
2-26


TIGRA COMES RUNNING. INSTANTLY SHE SEES THAT FLASH WILL EITHER BE HANGED OR TORN APART. WITH A RAY-BARRAGE SHE CUTS THE VINE THAT'S STRANGLING HIM!


TIGRA BLASTS ONE OF THE VINE NOOSES THAT ARE PULLING FLASH INTO THE AIR··BUT BEFORE SHE CAN CUT THE OTHER, FLASH'S BODY IS WHIPPED VIOLENTLY AGAINST A TREE-TRUNK.


THE TERRIFIC SMASH KNOCKS FLASH UNCONSCIOUS. TIGRA RACES ACROSS THE CLEARING, CAREFUL TO AVOID ANY OTHER SNARES··BUT UNAWARE THAT CUGAR IS WATCHING, WITH DRAWN RAY-GUN!
NEXT WEEK CUGAR'S TRIUMPH!
2-27


CUGAR'S VINE-NOOSE TRAP HAS SMASHED FLASH AGAINST A TREE
FLASH-- MY POOR DARLING--- I HOPE I DIDN'T KILL YOU!
Copr. 1938, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
TIGRA SUPPORTS FLASH'S DANGLING BODY, WHILE SHE CUTS THE VINE-ROPE WITH A RAY-SHOT---
--NOT KNOWING THAT THE HIDDEN ASSASSIN, CUGAR, IS GETTING A SURE AIM AT HER UNPROTECTED BACK!
3-1
TIGRA BENDS OVER FLASH'S UNCONSCIOUS BODY----
THANK TAO-- HE'S STILL BREATHING!
Copr. 1938, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
CAUTIOUS, BUT RUTHLESS, THE AMBUSHED CUGAR WAITS FOR A PERFECT SHOT--THEN FIRES A MURDEROUS BLAST!
3-2
THEY SNEERED AT CUGAR. NOW THEY WILL PAY! I HOPE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE, SO I CAN TASTE MY TRIUMPH TO THE FULL!

BY TAO'S TOES, SHE'S TOUGH! THE RAY-SHOT DIDN'T KILL HER!--TIGRA, MY GIRL, YOU'LL WISH IT HAD!
3-3

NOW TO TIE UP MY PRISONERS, SO I CAN DEAL WITH THEM AT MY LEISURE!
BUT ACROSS THE CLEARING, DALE IS GRADUALLY STIRRING FROM THE DRUGGED SLEEP INTO WHICH CUGAR'S POISON-GAS HERBS HAD PLUNGED HER.

FEEBLY, DALE FIGHTS OFF THE HYPNOTIC EFFECT OF CUGAR'S POISON-GAS LEAVES...

SHE FREEZES WITH HORROR AT THE GRIM SIGHT BEFORE HER. CUGAR IS BINDING FLASH WITH A TRICK KNOT THAT WILL STRANGLE HIM AT THE SLIGHTEST ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE.
THERE, FLASH GORDON--YOU'LL SOON FEEL THE AGONY OF CUGAR'S VENGEANCE!
3-4

DALE CAN ONLY PLAY FOR TIME. SHE PRETENDS TO BE STILL DRUGGED, HOPING TO CATCH CUGAR OFF-GUARD.

DRIVEN BY MURDER-LUST, CUGAR CRUELLY BINDS FLASH AND TIGRA.
DON'T STRUGGLE, FLASH, OR THAT NOOSE WILL CHOKE YOU-- AND I WANT YOU ALIVE FOR A WHILE!
3-5

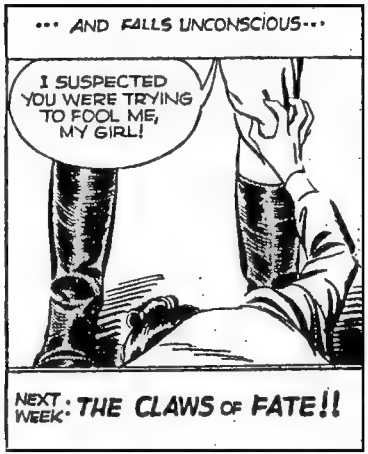
DALE PLAYS "POSSUM," AS SHE SEES CUGAR STAR" TOWARD HER

BUT CUGAR IS TAKING NO CHANCES, EVEN WITH AN UNCONSCIOUS GIRL!...
I THINK I'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER WHIFF OF GAS, JUST TO MAKE SURE..

WITH HIS GUN EVER READY, THE SUSPICIOUS CUGAR GATHERS THE FOREST HERBS, WHOSE MIXTURE MAKES A HYPNOTIC GAS...

HE NEVER COMES WITHIN DALE'S REACH. CRUSHING THE EVIL LEAVES TOGETHER, HE FLINGS THEM BENEATH HER NOSE...

DALE TRIES TO HOLD HER BREATH... AT LAST SHE MAKES ONE LAST DESPERATE EFFORT...
3-6


... AND FALLS UNCONSCIOUS...
I SUSPECTED YOU WERE TRYING TO FOOL ME, MY GIRL!
NEXT WEEK: THE CLAWS OF FATE!!

DALE RISKS HER LIFE TO SAVE FLASH... IN VAIN! SHE FALLS UNCONSCIOUS BEFORE REACHING CUGAR.
YOU LITTLE DEVIL, YOU CAN'T FOOL CUGAR!
COME JOIN YOUR FRIENDS, DALE--I HAVE A PLAN TO ENTERTAIN ALL OF YOU!
3-8
FLASH STRUGGLES FURIOUSLY AT THE SIGHT OF DALE IN CUGAR'S HATED ARMS... BUT THE KNOTS ARE TOO CUNNINGLY TIED. THE NOOSE TIGHTENS SHARPLY ABOUT HIS NECK!
CUGAR WATCHES, GLOATINGLY, AS FLASH GASPS FOR BREATH
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO GET LOOSE--THAT SLIP-KNOT WILL CHOKE YOU!
NOT EVEN FLASH'S GREAT STRENGTH CAN WITHSTAND THE HANGMAN'S KNOT....
I MUSTN'T LET YOU STRANGLE YET, FLASH --THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY AN ESCAPE!
EVEN THOUGH FLASH IS HELPLESS HIS ENEMY SHOWS A HEALTHY RESPECT, AS HE LEANS OVER TO LOOSEN THE NOOSE.
NO TRICKS NOW, FLASH, OR I'LL SHOOT...
3-9

FLASH GULPS IN GREAT LUNGFULS OF LIFE-SAVING AIR, AS CUGAR LOOSENS THE NOOSE AROUND HIS VICTIM'S NECK.
THAT WILL TEACH YOU NOT TO STRUGGLE AGAINST MY KNOTS.
3-10
CUGAR! YOU COWARDLY RAT!
I'LL CUT YOUR THROAT FOR THAT, TIGRA! YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO DIE! FLASH CAN WATCH YOUR STRUGGLES, KNOWING THAT DALE IS NEXT ··· AND THEN HE, TOO, WILL PAY THE PRICE FOR DEFYING PRINCE CUGAR!
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WHAT'S THAT?
BUT AN EAR-SPLITTING SCREECH FROM THE FOREST DEPTHS INTERRUPTS CUGAR'S CRAZY THREATS.
CUGAR'S MURDEROUS BOASTING IS CUT SHORT BY THE HUNTING-CRY OF A FOREST MONSTER! WITH A TERRIFYING SCREECH, THE ARMORED BEAST CHARGES AT ITS HUMAN PREY!
TAO HELP ME! IT'S A HORROCLAW!
3-11
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THE SHARP-CLAWED CREATURE SCRAMBLES OVER THE PRISONERS IN ITS GREED TO CLAIM STILL ANOTHER VICTIM···

AS THE HORROCLAW DASHES OVER THE HELPLESS PRISONERS, ONE HIND CLAW CATCHES IN FLASH'S BONDS!.....

WITH A QUICK FLIP OF STEEL-LIKE MUSCLES IT HURLS FLASH BACK INTO THE TREES...

THE STRAIN WOULD HAVE BROKEN THE BACK AND NECK OF ANY OTHER MAN...
3-12

THE HORROCLAW PAUSES AN INSTANT, AS IF TO MAKE SURE OF ITS HELPLESS VICTIMS.

BUT CUGAR'S WILD SCRAMBLE UP THE TREE ATTRACTS THE MONSTER'S ATTENTION...

FLASH, HALF-DAZED, PICKS HIMSELF UP AND FIGHTS HIS WAY OUT OF HIS CUT AND BROKEN BONDS....
3-13
NEXT WEEK: THE HORROCLAW'S FURY!...

FREE AT LAST, FLASH PUSHES HIS WAY INTO THE CLEARING···

WHERE THE HORROCLAW, FURIOUS AT CUGAR'S FUTILE RAY-SHOTS, SHAKES THE TREE IN WHICH THE ASSASSIN HAS TAKEN REFUGE
8-15
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SAVE US, FLASH!
FLASH SWIFTLY CREEPS TOWARD THE TRAPPED GIRLS, TRYING NOT TO ATTRACT THE MONSTER'S ATTENTION··

FLASH VENTURES INTO THE CLEARING TO RETRIEVE THE KNIFE AND GUN, WHICH CUGAR DROPPED IN HIS PANIC. SUDDENLY, THE HORROCLAW TURNS AND GIVES A FEARSOME SCREAM OF RAGE··
8-16

CUGAR, TREED, HOLDS HIS BREATH, HOPING THE MONSTER WILL TURN ON FLASH.

BUT THE COWARDLY ASSASSIN IS TREMBLING SO HARD THAT HE ACCIDENTALLY FIRES HIS RAY-GUN AGAIN···
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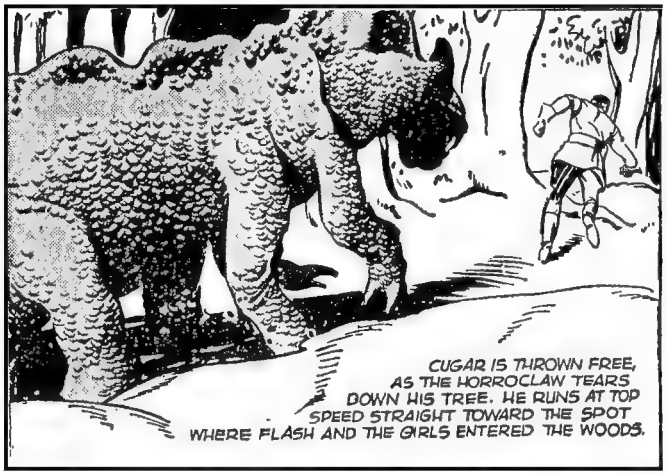
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DALE?
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?
QUIET, DALE, FOR THE LOVE OF TAO!
FLASH HURRIEDLY SLIPS BACK TO THE HELPLESS GIRLS

WITH MONSTROUS RAGE, THE HORROCLAW TEARS AT THE TREE WHERE CUGAR COWERS.. WHILE FLASH CUTS TIGRA'S BONDS IN DESPERATE HASTE...
QUIET, DEAR. CRAWL INTO THE WOODS.. FAST!
3-17

I CAN HARDLY WALK YET, FLASH!
YOU'LL HAVE TO RUN, IF THAT HORROCLAW STARTS AFTER YOU!
WITH DESPERATE STEALTH, FLASH HELPS DALE AND TIGRA INTO THE DOUBTFUL SHELTER OF THE FOREST--

BUT FOR THAT MOMENT THE FOREST-MONSTER IS BUSY - TEARING DOWN THE TREE IN WHICH ITS PREY, CUGAR, TRIED TO HIDE--


CUGAR IS THROWN FREE, AS THE HORROCLAW TEARS DOWN HIS TREE. HE RUNS AT TOP SPEED STRAIGHT TOWARD THE SPOT WHERE FLASH AND THE GIRLS ENTERED THE WOODS.

FLASH HAD BEEN ABOUT TO FIRE AT THE HORROCLAW. HE HAD NO THOUGHT OF SHOOTING CUGAR--BUT HE WISHES HE HAD, WHEN THE COWARD KNOCKS DOWN THE GIRLS IN HIS PANICKY FLIGHT!
3-19
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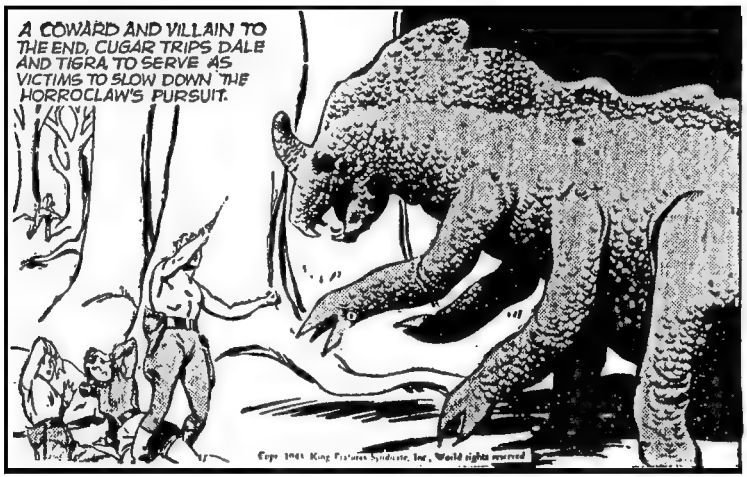
A COWARD AND VILLAIN TO THE END, CUGAR TRIPS DALE AND TIGRA TO SERVE AS VICTIMS TO SLOW DOWN THE HORROCLAW'S PURSUIT.
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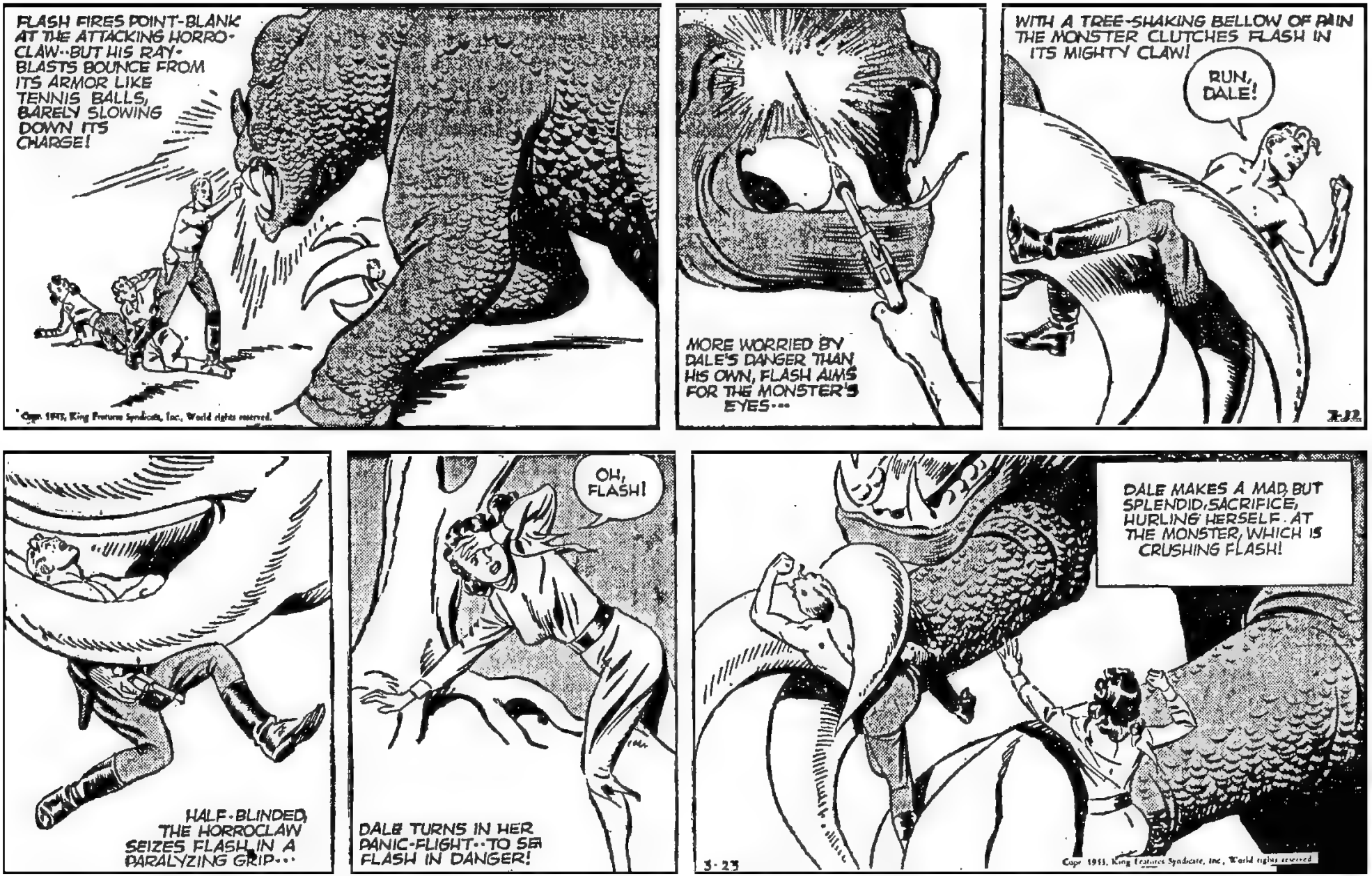
NEXT WEEK
BATTLE TO THE DEATH!


FLASH FIRES POINT-BLANK AT THE ATTACKING HORRO-CLAW--BUT HIS RAY-BLASTS BOUNCE FROM ITS ARMOR LIKE TENNIS BALLS, BARELY SLOWING DOWN ITS CHARGE!
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MORE WORRIED BY DALE'S DANGER THAN HIS OWN, FLASH AIMS FOR THE MONSTER'S EYES---
WITH A TREE-SHAKING BELLOW OF PAIN THE MONSTER CLUTCHES FLASH IN ITS MIGHTY CLAW!
RUN, DALE!
HALF-BLINDED, THE HORROCLAW SEIZES FLASH IN A PARALYZING GRIP---
OH, FLASH!
DALE TURNS IN HER PANIC-FLIGHT--TO SEE FLASH IN DANGER!
DALE MAKES A MAD, BUT SPLENDID, SACRIFICE, HURLING HERSELF AT THE MONSTER, WHICH IS CRUSHING FLASH!
3-23
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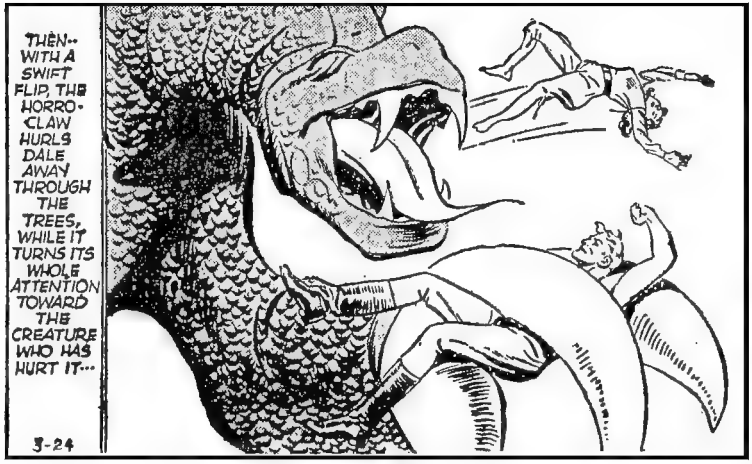
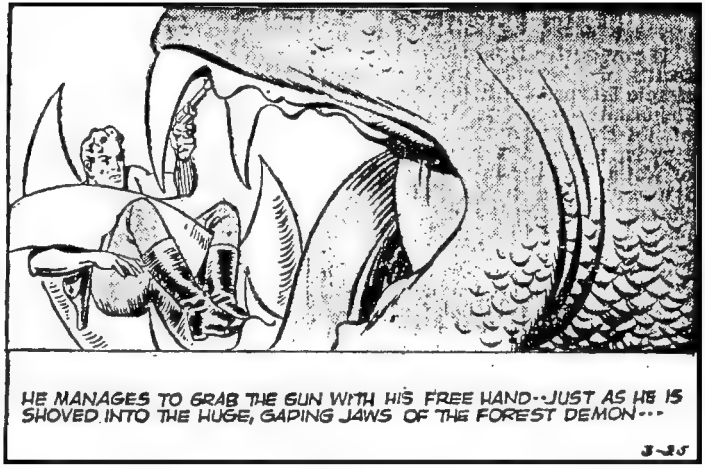
TRY TO GET AWAY, FLASH!
OH, DALE! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAVE YOURSELF?


THEN-- WITH A SWIFT FLIP, THE HORRO-CLAW HURLS DALE AWAY THROUGH THE TREES, WHILE IT TURNS ITS WHOLE ATTENTION TOWARD THE CREATURE WHO HAS HURT IT...
3-24

DAZED AND BREATHLESS, DALE CAN ONLY SIT, HELPLESS, WATCHING THE HORROCLAW DEVOUR HER BELOVED FLASH.

FLASH'S GUN-ARM IS PARALYZED BY THE MONSTER'S SHARP CLAW...


HE MANAGES TO GRAB THE GUN WITH HIS FREE HAND--JUST AS HE IS SHOVED INTO THE HUGE, GAPING JAWS OF THE FOREST DEMON...
3-25

DALE FAINTS WITH HORROR, UNABLE TO WATCH, AS FLASH IS CRAMMED INTO THE SHARP-FANGED MOUTH OF THE MONSTER..
WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, FLASH EMPTIES HIS RAY-GUN DOWN THE OPEN GULLET...
THE HORROCLAW'S DYING ROAR ROCKS THE FOREST, AS IT SPITS FLASH OUT, TOO TOUGH A MOUTHFUL TO SWALLOW!
3-26
DALE, DARLING..
THE FOREST IS STRANGELY SILENT, AS FLASH STAGGERS FROM THE DEAD HORROCLAW TOWARD DALE'S STILL FORM..
I'M DREAMING ...I HEARD FLASH'S VOICE!
IT'S NO DREAM, DEAR. I'M STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE!
WE'RE SAFE NOW, DALE, BUT I WANT YOU TO PROMISE YOU'LL NEVER AGAIN RUN INTO DANGER FOR MY SAKE!
I WON'T, DEAR--UNLESS YOU'RE IN DANGER AGAIN!
NEXT WEEK FOREST SURPRISE
3-27

OH, DARLING, I WAS SO SCARED!
IN THE SAFETY OF FLASH'S ARMS, DALE USES A WOMAN'S PRIVILEGE TO LET DOWN AFTER DANGER....

YOU SURELY DIDN'T LOOK SCARED, WHEN YOU CHARGED AT THE MONSTER, BARE-HANDED, TO HELP ME!
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YOU WON'T THINK I'M A SISSY THEN, IF I BEG YOU TO HURRY OUT OF THIS HORRIBLE FOREST?
3-29

WHAT HAPPENED TO TIGRA? HADN'T YOU BETTER SHOUT FOR HER?
THAT'S PRETTY SWELL OF YOU, AFTER WHAT SHE DID TO YOU.

TIGRA! WE'RE SAFE! COME BACK!
WHAT DID TIGRA DO TO ME, DEAR?
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SHE LIED TO ME-- TOLD ME YOU WERE DEAD!
HOW HORRIBLE! WHY, FLASH, SHE MUST BE MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU TO TRY THAT TRICK!
3-30

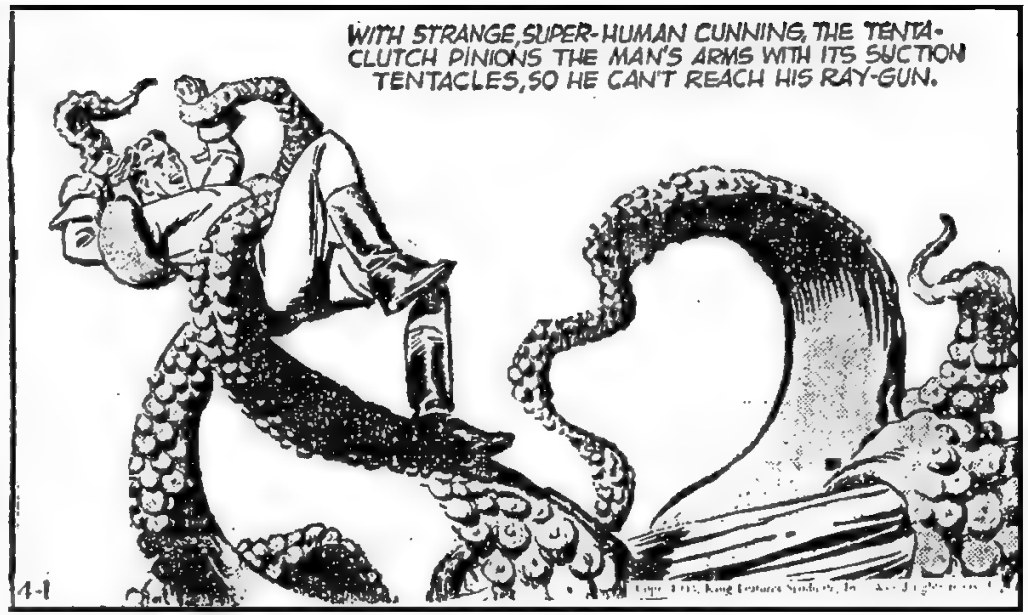
FLASH! THANK TAO YOU'RE SAFE! YOU WERE SO BRAVE TO PROTECT US FROM THAT GHASTLY MONSTER!
TIGRA!
3-31

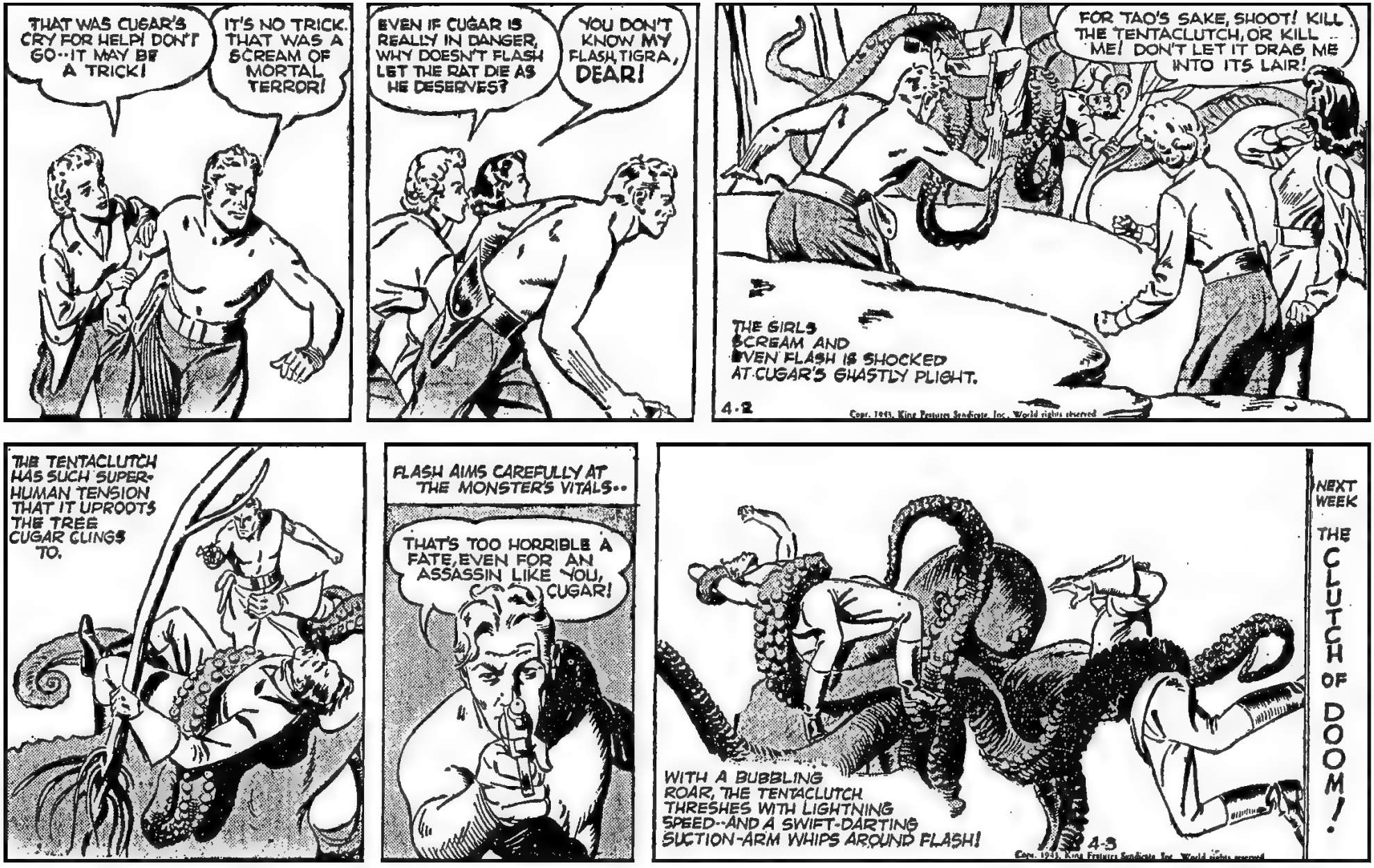
NEVER MIND THE FLATTERY, TIGRA. FLASH HAS TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR CRUEL LIE.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK, DALE. ALL THAT WORRIES ME IS THAT I KNOW FLASH WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME!

HELP! SAVE ME!
FLASH IS ABOUT TO HALT AT THE GIRLS' ARGUMENT, WHEN A MAN'S WILD SCREAM ECHOES THROUGH THE FOREST!

AFTER TRYING TO SACRIFICE DALE, FLASH AND TIGRA TO SAVE HIMSELF FROM AN ATTACKING HORROCLAW, CUGAR HAD FLED AT TOP SPEED...

THE COWARD RUNS SO BLINDLY THAT HE HASN'T A CHANCE TO DODGE THE MENACE LURKING IN THE NARROW ANIMAL TRAIL..


WITH STRANGE, SUPER-HUMAN CUNNING, THE TENTA-CLUTCH PINIONS THE MAN'S ARMS WITH ITS SUCTION TENTACLES, SO HE CAN'T REACH HIS RAY-GUN.
4-1


THAT WAS CUGAR'S CRY FOR HELP! DON'T GO--IT MAY BE A TRICK!
IT'S NO TRICK. THAT WAS A SCREAM OF MORTAL TERROR!
EVEN IF CUGAR IS REALLY IN DANGER, WHY DOESN'T FLASH LET THE RAT DIE AS HE DESERVES?
YOU DON'T KNOW MY FLASH, TIGRA, DEAR!
FOR TAO'S SAKE, SHOOT! KILL THE TENTACLUTCH, OR KILL ME! DON'T LET IT DRAG ME INTO ITS LAIR!
THE GIRLS SCREAM AND EVEN FLASH IS SHOCKED AT CUGAR'S GHASTLY PLIGHT.
4-2
Copr. 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
THE TENTACLUTCH HAS SUCH SUPER-HUMAN TENSION THAT IT UPROOTS THE TREE CUGAR CLINGS TO.
FLASH AIMS CAREFULLY AT THE MONSTER'S VITALS..
THAT'S TOO HORRIBLE A FATE, EVEN FOR AN ASSASSIN LIKE YOU, CUGAR!
WITH A BUBBLING ROAR, THE TENTACLUTCH THRESHES WITH LIGHTNING SPEED--AND A SWIFT-DARTING SUCTION-ARM WHIPS AROUND FLASH!
4-3
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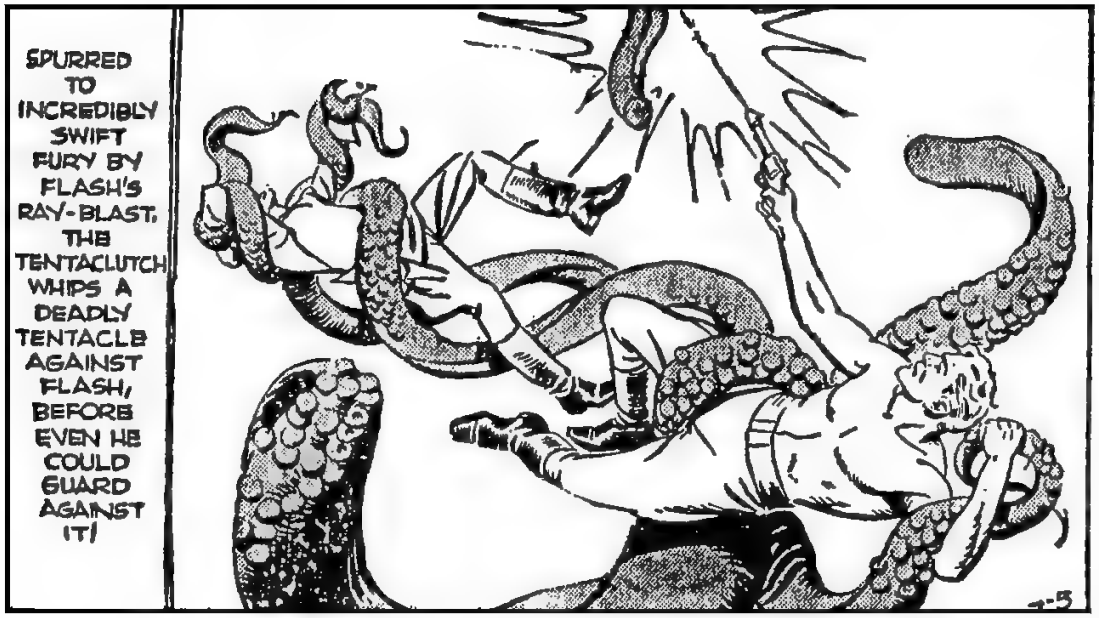
NEXT WEEK
THE CLUTCH OF DOOM!


SPURRED TO INCREDIBLY SWIFT FURY BY FLASH'S RAY-BLAST, THE TENTACLUTCH WHIPS A DEADLY TENTACLE AGAINST FLASH, BEFORE EVEN HE COULD GUARD AGAINST IT!
4-5

THE WOUNDED MONSTER'S VACUUM-SUCTION PARALYZES FLASH'S MIGHTY SINEWS... HIS RAY-GUN FALLS FROM HIS TORTURED HAND!
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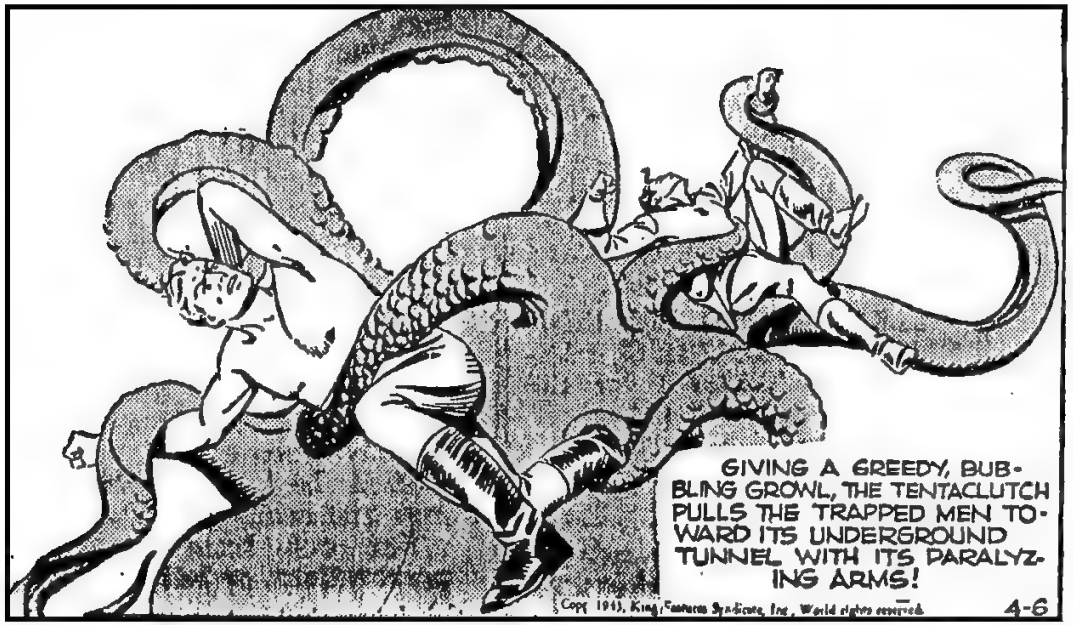
GIVING A GREEDY, BUBBLING GROWL, THE TENTACLUTCH PULLS THE TRAPPED MEN TOWARD ITS UNDERGROUND TUNNEL WITH ITS PARALYZING ARMS!
Copr. 1941, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
4-6

KEEP BACK, GIRLS. DON'T LET IT CATCH YOU!

FLASH'S VOICE SHOCKS DALE AND TIGRA OUT OF THEIR FROZEN HORROR. WITH A SINGLE MOVEMENT, THEY DIVE FOR THE FALLEN RAY-GUN, DISREGARDING FLASH.

WE'LL SAVE YOU, FLASH!
GET THE GUN!
WHEN THEY SEE FLASH BEING DRAGGED TOWARD THE UNDERGROUND DEN, DALE AND TIGRA OVERCOME THEIR HORROR OF THE WRITHING TENTACLUTCH...

A PARALYZING SUCTION-ARM WHIPS DOWN UPON THEM, JUST AS THEY REACH THE PRECIOUS WEAPON.
4-7

DALE DELIBERATELY SACRIFICES HERSELF FOR FLASH
GET THE GUN, TIGRA! SAVE HIM! I'LL FIGHT THE TENTA-CLUTCH.
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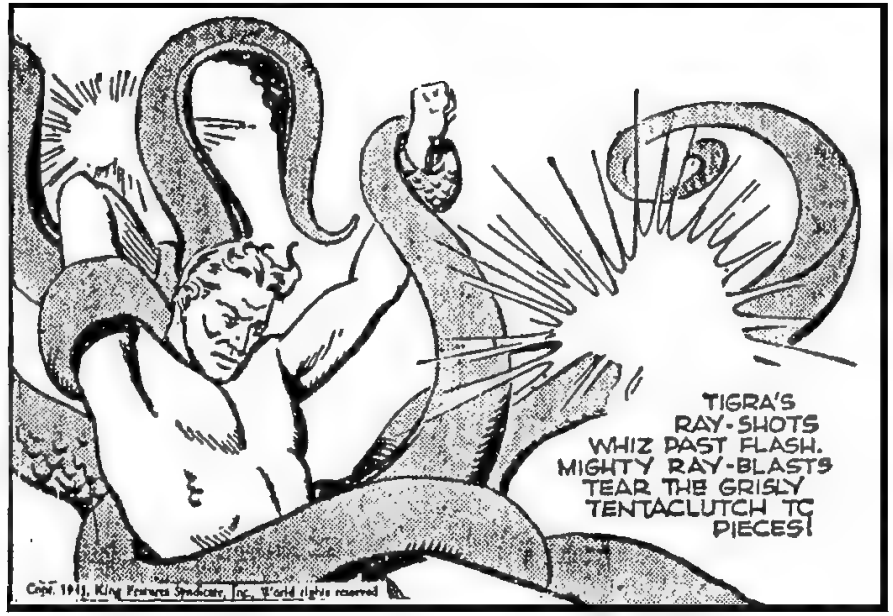
HURRY, TIGRA! SAVE FLASH!
DALE BRAVELY CONQUERS HER FEMININE HORROR OF THE CLUTCHING TENTACLE TO GIVE TIGRA TIME TO GET THE RAY-GUN.

THE QUEEN OF FORESTIA SHOWS HER QUALITY IN THE PINCH. SWIFTLY, BUT STEADILY SHE SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER...
4-8


TIGRA'S RAY-SHOTS WHIZ PAST FLASH. MIGHTY RAY-BLASTS TEAR THE GRISLY TENTACLUTCH TO PIECES!
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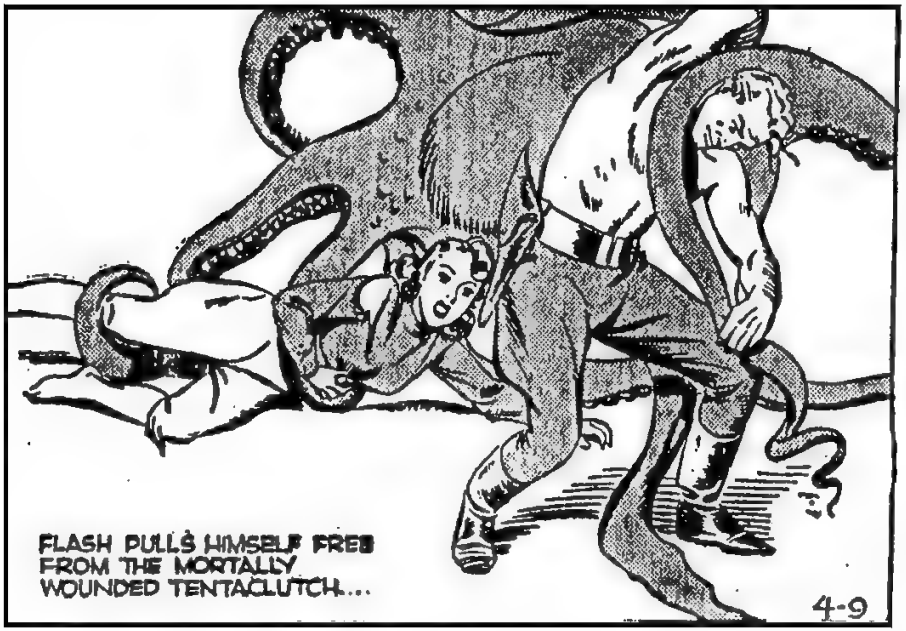
FLASH PULLS HIMSELF FREE FROM THE MORTALLY WOUNDED TENTACLUTCH...
4-9

DALE CLINGS TO FLASH IN UTTER RELIEF. AT LAST SHE MANAGES TO SPEAK...
YOU MUST THANK TIGRA, SHE SAVED US.

I SURELY DO THANK YOU, TIGRA.
BETTER THANK DALE. SHE PULLED THE TENTACLE OFF ME, SO I COULD SHOOT!
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MOMENTARILY FORGOTTEN, THE ASSASSIN, CUGAR, STRUGGLES TO FREE HIMSELF FROM THE DEAD TENTACLUTCH, SO HE CAN GET AT HIS HOLSTERED GUN.

BUT FLASH'S KEEN EARS CATCH THE STEALTHY SOUND..
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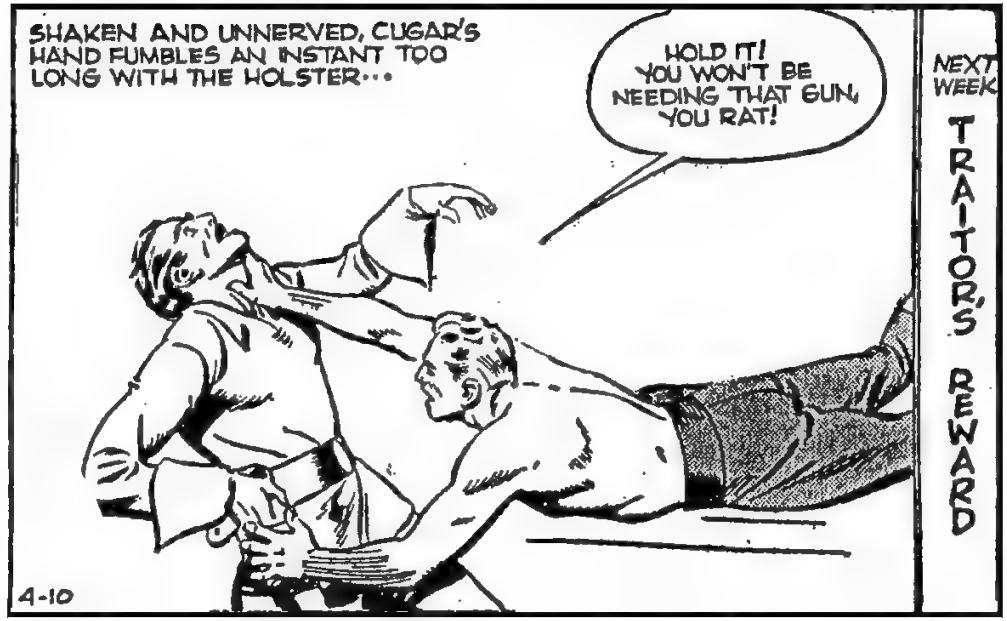
SHAKEN AND UNNERVED, CUGAR'S HAND FUMBLES AN INSTANT TOO LONG WITH THE HOLSTER...
HOLD IT! YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THAT GUN, YOU RAT!
4-10
NEXT WEEK
TRAITOR'S REWARD

TREACHEROUS CUGAR TRIES TO TO THE END, SHOOT THE MAN WHO RESCUED HIM FROM THE TENTACLUTCH.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY, YOU MAD DOG.
4-12
IT'S TIME TO EXTERMINATE THIS VERMIN!
NOT IN COLD BLOOD, TIGRA. WE'LL TAKE HIM BACK FOR FAIR TRIAL.
WE'LL TAKE NO MORE CHANCES WITH YOU, FRIEND CUGAR!
4-13
A DASH OF COLD WATER BRINGS CUGAR BACK TO REALITY.
AND THAT'S BETTER THAN YOU DESERVE.
ON YOUR FEET, MURDERER. YOU'RE GOING BACK TO STAND TRIAL.
Copr. 1945, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved.
CUGAR, SHAMBLES ALONG, SEEMINGLY UTTERLY CRUSHED AND COWED, BUT HIS RAT'S BRAIN IS SCHEMING VICIOUSLY.

IF YOU WANT TO RUN AWAY, CUGAR, GO AHEAD. IT'D BE A PLEASURE TO HAVE AN EXCUSE TO SHOOT YOU, AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO DALE.
OH, NO, NO, I KNOW WHEN I'M BEATEN!

IF WE COULD GET ACROSS, THE PALACE IS NOT FAR AWAY.
FLASH KNOWS BETTER THAN TO TRUST THE ASSASSIN, BUT SOON HE HAS ANOTHER PROBLEM TO SOLVE...

GUARD CUGAR, TIGRA. I'LL BLAST THIS TREE DOWN TO BRIDGE THE CANYON.
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4-14

TIGRA GUARDS THE ASSASSIN, DARING HIM TO MAKE A FALSE MOVE. FLASH USES HIS ENGINEERING SKILL TO BRIDGE THE CHASM BARRING THEIR WAY.
FLASH, THAT'S WONDERFUL! IT'S GOING TO FALL JUST RIGHT!
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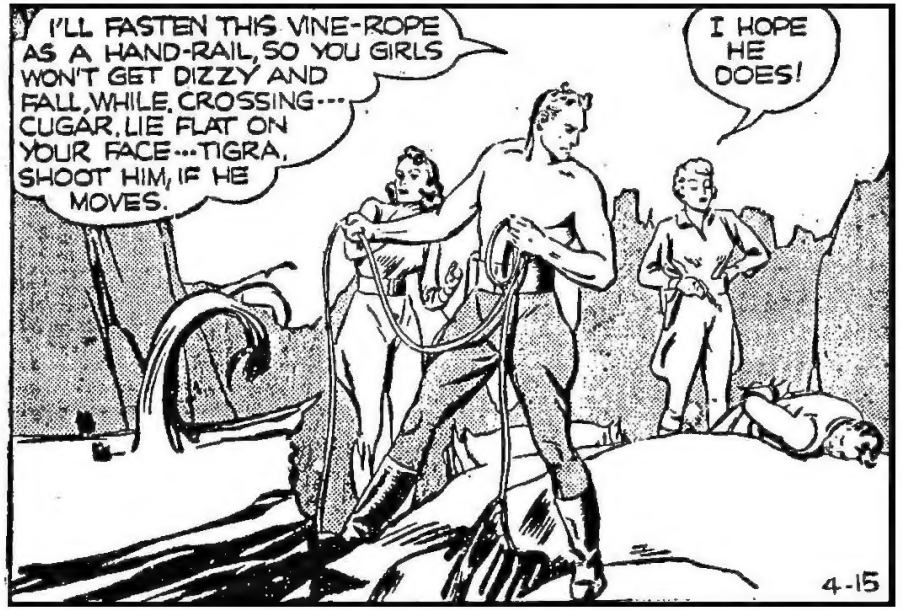
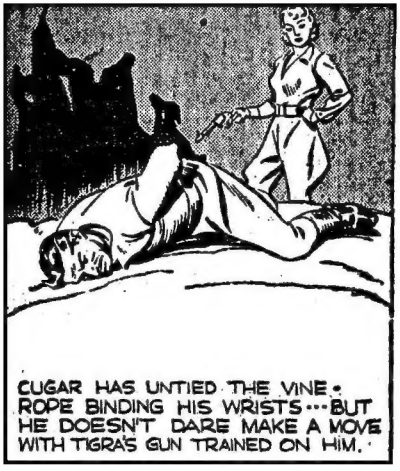
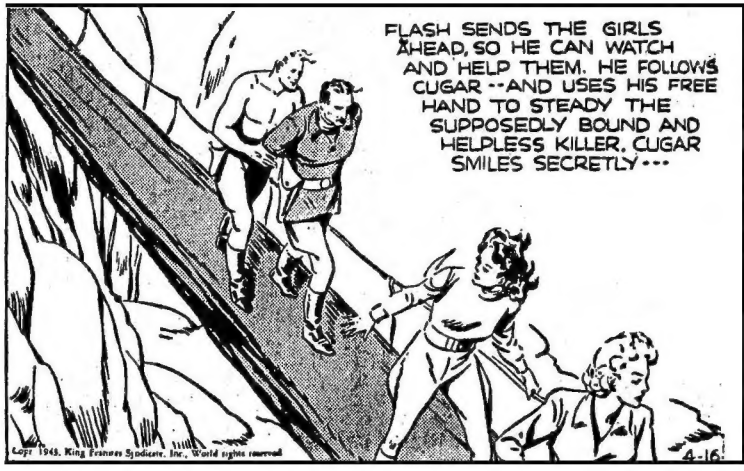

I'LL FASTEN THIS VINE-ROPE AS A HAND-RAIL, SO YOU GIRLS WON'T GET DIZZY AND FALL, WHILE CROSSING... CUGAR, LIE FLAT ON YOUR FACE... TIGRA, SHOOT HIM, IF HE MOVES.
I HOPE HE DOES!
4-15


CUGAR HAS UNTIED THE VINE-ROPE BINDING HIS WRISTS···BUT HE DOESN'T DARE MAKE A MOVE WITH TIGRA'S GUN TRAINED ON HIM.

ALL SET--LET'S GO ACROSS!


FLASH SENDS THE GIRLS AHEAD, SO HE CAN WATCH AND HELP THEM. HE FOLLOWS CUGAR--AND USES HIS FREE HAND TO STEADY THE SUPPOSEDLY BOUND AND HELPLESS KILLER. CUGAR SMILES SECRETLY···
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4-16

HALFWAY ACROSS THE LOFTY TREE-BRIDGE, CUGAR WHIRLS AND GRABS FLASH TO PLUNGE HIM INTO THE ROCKY CANYON!
4-17

BUT FLASH'S LEFT HAND CATCHES CUGAR--AND PULLS HIMSELF BACK ON THE LOG, AT THE MURDERER'S EXPENSE!
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POOR FELLOW!
HE EARNED HIS FATE!
AWE-STRUCK, THE THREE SURVIVORS WATCH THE TRAITOR CRASH TOWARD THE ROCKY DEPTHS, FAR BELOW!
NEXT WEEK
BURIED TREASURE

THE MURDEROUS CUGAR HAS FALLEN TO A WELL-DESERVED DOOM IN THE CANYON DEPTHS
HE'S GONE, POOR DEVIL. COME ON, GIRLS, WE'D BETTER BE ON OUR WAY.
OH!
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I FEEL SO DIZZY!
4-19

STEADY, THERE, DEAR. I WON'T LET YOU FALL!
I FEEL JUST LIKE JUMPING!

SNAP OUT OF IT, DALE--OR YOU'LL PULL US BOTH OVER!
BUT--BUT I HAVE THE CRAZIEST URGE TO JUMP--
4-20

MAYBE THIS'LL TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THE CANYON!

MASTERFUL AND DETERMINED, FLASH HURRIES DALE OFF THE DANGEROUS TREE-BRIDGE TO THE SAFETY OF THE CLIFF'S EDGE....
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ARE YOU ALL RIGHT NOW, DALE?
YES, NOW THAT WE'RE SAFELY ACROSS THAT HORRIBLE CANYON.
VERY TOUCHING! DON'T LET ME INTERRUPT!
SORRY, TIGRA. I HADN'T FORGOTTEN YOU, BUT YOU SEEMED TO BE O.K.-- CUGAR'S FATE EVIDENTLY DIDN'T BOTHER YOU.
4-21
NO, HE MERELY SAVED ME THE TROUBLE OF EXECUTING HIM--- COME ON, I'M IMPATIENT TO GET BACK TO MY PALACE.
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